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(54) **Thermoplastic polymer composition having admixed therein one or more monomeric near-infrared fluorescing compounds**

Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung welche eine oder mehrere Monomere, im nahen infrarot fluoreszierende Verbindungen, darin vermischt enthält

Composition de polymère thermoplastique à laquelle on mélange un ou plusieurs composés monomères fluorescents dans la région du proche infrarouge

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(56) References cited:
EP-A- 0 331 876 **GB-A- 2 168 372**

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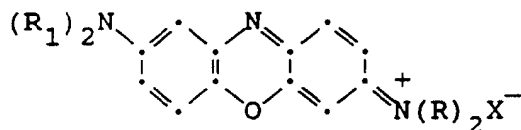
Description

The present invention belongs to the field of polymer chemistry.
This is a divisional application of EP-A-92921705.

Background of the Invention

Billions of pounds of thermoplastic polymers are used annually in the world for producing fibers, films, shaped articles, bottles, etc. Disposal of these polymeric materials by incineration or by placing them in land fills is becoming unacceptable due largely to the ever-increasing environmental impact. Recycling offers many advantages from an environmental standpoint; however, efforts so far have been hampered by the lack of fast, convenient, and economically attractive methods for identification and separation (sorting) of the various thermoplastic polymers currently available in the marketplace, and hence ending up in landfills. It has been estimated that plastics comprise 7.3 percent by weight of all municipal solid waste, of which only about 1 percent is currently recycled (U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment "Facing America's Trash: What Next for Municipal Solid Waste", OTA-0-424 (Washington, D.C.; U.S. Government Printing Office, October, 1989)). Visual identification and manual separation techniques presently used for sorting and separation of plastics are labor intensive and expensive in addition to being subject to human error. Efforts to use some inherent physical property of the plastics such as density for identification and separation have thus far not proven to be attractive. To allow plastics to become truly recyclable, plastic compositions which have unique properties which allow them to be separated from each other by automated methods, as opposed to manual separation, are thus very desirable.

It is known (U.S. Patent 4,540,595) that one may mark documents such as bank checks by the use of inks that fluoresce in the near infrared region, i.e., generally between 650 and 800 nm, for automatic identification. Fluorescent phenoxazine dyes of the formula



wherein R_1 and R are alkyl and X^- is an anion are shown to be effective near-infrared fluorescing compounds for this purpose. Attempts to use these compounds for adding to thermoplastics to impart fluorescence in the near infrared have failed because the high temperatures necessary for the preparation and processing of thermoplastics cause decomposition of the phenoxazine compounds.

A method for separation of magnesium bearing ore particles based on the presence of a fluorescent compound, i.e., 8-hydroxyquinoline, is known (U.S. Patent 4,423,814). The conditioned ore is irradiated with UV light to induce fluorescence and the magnesium-rich mineral separated from the lean ore particles by detecting the difference of the fluorescence intensity. This method of identification and sorting, based on the use of compounds which fluoresce in the UV light range is not appropriate for thermoplastics in general because many absorb UV light themselves as well as the absorbance by residual products packaged therein. U.S. Patent 4,321,133 discloses a similar process for sorting limestone ores.

A method for sorting agricultural materials based on irradiation with near-infrared light has also been disclosed (U.S. Patent 4,915,827). Absorption in the infrared region is measured and compared to pre-determined infrared absorption criteria, which criteria distinguish the desired material from undesired material. This method does not relate to plastic materials and does not involve near infrared fluorescence as a distinguishing part of the method.

Near infrared absorbing compounds such as carbon black (U.S. Patents 4,408,004; 4,476,272; 4,535,118) and iron oxide (Fe_2O_3) (U.S. Patents 4,250,078; 4,420,581) have been added to thermoplastic polyesters in small quantities to improve heat-up rates during molding operations. These near infrared light absorbing compounds are not fluorescent and thus cannot be used as near infrared fluorescing "tags".

Further, it has been proposed that one may separate polyvinyl chloride bottles from polyester bottles based on an x-ray method (R&D Magazine, July 1990, p. 102). The x-ray detector is sensitive to the chlorine found in polyvinyl chloride plastics, but not sensitive to the polyester plastics since they contain no chlorine. Obviously, this separation method is very limited in applicability and involves the use of hazardous x-ray radiation.

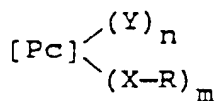
Near infrared fluorescing compounds have also been used in immunoassay procedures for identifying cancerous tissue in the human body (U.S. Patent 4,541,438).

Finally, it has been proposed (G. Patonay, Analytical Chemistry, Vol. 63, No. 6, 1991, pp 321-327) to use near infrared fluorescent compounds for fluorogenic labels for biomolecules; however, the disclosed fluorescent compounds have poor thermal stability and are not suitable for tagging or marking thermoplastic compositions.

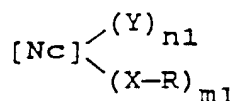
DD-A227520 describes the marking of thermoplastic waste with ultraviolet fluorescent dyes.

Summary of the Invention

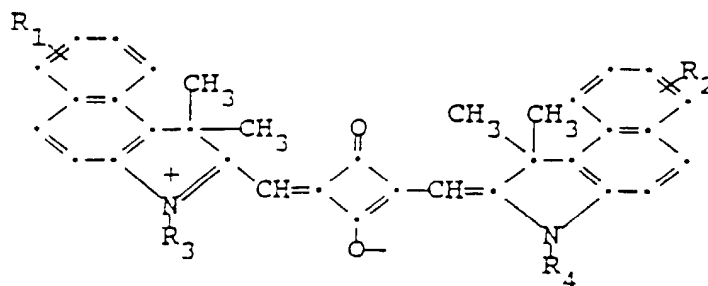
This invention relates to a thermoplastic polymer composition which comprises a thermoplastic polymer having admixed therein one or more monomeric near-infrared fluorescing compounds, provided that said near-infrared fluorescing compounds do not substantially absorb light in the visible spectrum, wherein said compounds are present in a concentration sufficient to impart fluorescence capable of detection by near infrared detection means when exposed to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength of about 670 to 2500 nm and wherein the near infrared fluorescing compound is selected from the classes of phthalocyanines, naphthalocyanines and squaraines and correspond to Formulae II, III and IV:



(II)

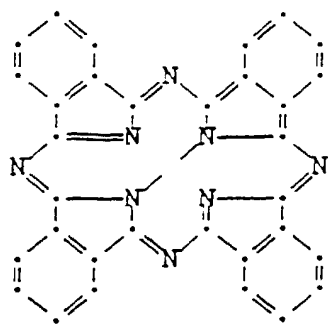


(III)

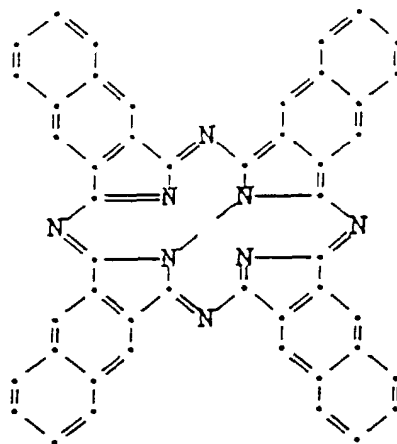


IV

wherein Pc and Nc represent the phthalocyanine and 2,3-naphthalocyanine moieties of Formulae IIa and IIIa.



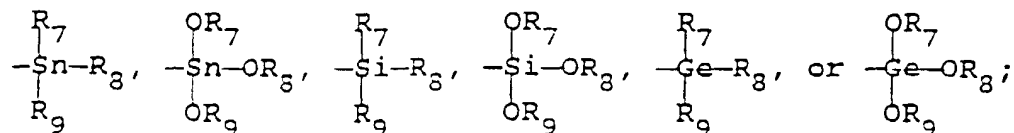
IIa



IIIa

respectively, covalently bonded to various metals, halometals, organometallic groups, and oxymetals selected from a list consisting of AlCl, AlBr, AlF, AlOH, AlOR₅, AlSR₅, Ca, Co, CrF, Fe, Ge, Ga, InCl, Mg, Mn, Ni, Pb, Pt, Pd, SiCl₂, SiF₂, SnCl₂, Sn(OR₆)₂, Si(OR₆)₂, Sn(SR₆)₂, Si(SR₆)₂, Sn, TiO, VO or Zn, wherein

R₅ and R₆ are selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, lower alkanoyl, trifluoroacetyl or groups of the formulae

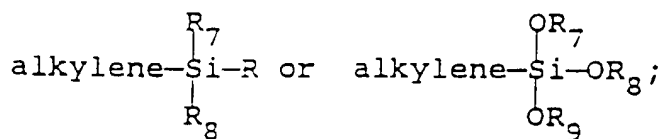


R₇, R₈ and R₉ are independently selected from alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted with lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or halogen;

X is selected from oxygen, sulfur, selenium, tellurium or a group of the formula -N-R₁₀, wherein R₁₀ is hydrogen, cycloalkyl, alkyl, acyl, alkylsulfonyl, or aryl or R₁₀ and R taken together form an aliphatic or aromatic ring with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached;

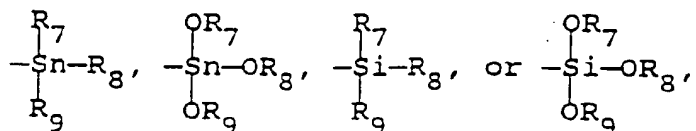
Y is selected from alkyl, halogen or hydrogen;

R is selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl,

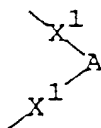


or

-(X-R)_m is alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, or a group selected from the formulae -X(C₂H₄O)_zR¹,



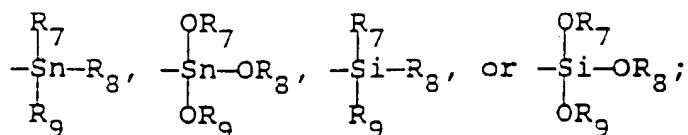
wherein R^1 is hydrogen or R as defined above; Z is an integer of from 1-4;
or two $-(X-R)_m$ groups can be taken together to form divalent substituents of the formula



wherein

each X^1 is independently selected from $-O-$, $-S-$, or $-N-R_{10}$ and A is selected from ethylene; propylene; trimethylene; and such groups substituted with C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, aryl and cycloalkyl; 1,2-phenylene and 1,2-phenylene containing 1-3 substituents selected from C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy or halogen;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, aryloxy, lower alkylthio, arylthio, lower alkylsulfonyl; arylsulfonyl; lower alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, cycloalkylsulfonylamino, carbonyl, unsubstituted and substituted carbamoyl and sulfamoyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxy or lower alkanoyloxy,



R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl or aryl; n is an integer from 0-12; n_1 is an integer from 0-24, m is an integer from 4-16; m_1 is an integer from 0-16; provided that the sums of $n+m$ and n_1+m_1 are 16 and 24, respectively.

Detailed Description of the Invention

This invention relates to thermoplastic polymer compositions as set forth in more detail in the attached claims. The presence of a near infrared fluorophore (NIRF) provides highly effective tags for identification of thermoplastics. Since most polymers themselves absorb UV light, and if they are colored also absorb visible light, "tagging" or "marking" components based on fluorescent UV and/or visible light absorbing compounds are not practical; however, interference from the thermoplastics themselves or from typical additives present therein or from typical contamination present thereon is minimal in the near infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum, thus allowing the NIRF "tag" to be detected in the presence of a complex matrix, while being largely "invisible". This permits design of an automated separation system which operates with zero or few false positive identifications and at very high speeds, e.g., greater than 3000 lb./hour.

Ideally, for the practice of this invention the NIRF "tag" has excellent thermal stability and little light absorption in the visible region; that is, they should impart little or no color to the thermoplastic polymer to which the NIRF is copolymerized or admixed with. Also, they should have strong absorption of near infrared light (high molar extinction coefficients, e.g. > 20,000) and have strong fluorescence in the near infrared over the wavelengths of about 670-2500 nm. Suitable stability to sunlight and fluorescent light and low extractability or sublimation from the thermoplastic compositions are also preferred. To produce essentially "invisible" tags the near infrared fluorescent compounds must absorb little if any light having wavelengths in the 400-700 nm range; however, since the compounds are present in extremely

low concentrations, a small amount of absorption may be tolerated without imparting significant color.

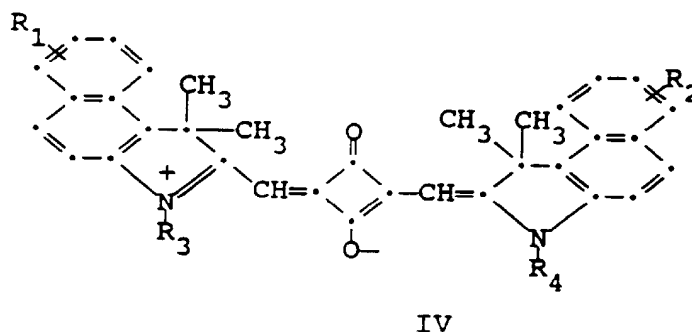
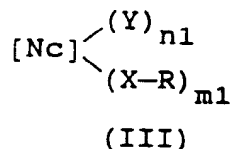
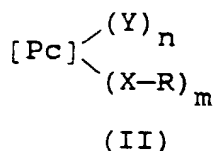
Thus, the present invention provides a thermoplastic polymer composition as defined in the claims which comprises a thermoplastic polymer having admixed therein one or more near-infrared fluorescing compounds, provided that said near-infrared fluorescing compounds do not substantially absorb light in the visible spectrum, wherein said compounds are present in a concentration sufficient to impart fluorescence capable of detection by near infrared detection means when exposed to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength of about 670 to 2500 nm.

As a further aspect of the present invention, there is provided a thermoplastic polymer composition which comprises a thermoplastic condensation polymer having copolymerized therein at least 0.01 ppm (parts per million) of one or more near infrared fluorescing compounds.

As a further aspect to the present invention, there is provided a shaped or formed article comprised of the tagged thermoplastic polymer compositions disclosed herein. It is within the scope of this invention for said compositions to have NIRF compounds admixed therein, coated thereon, or copolymerized therein.

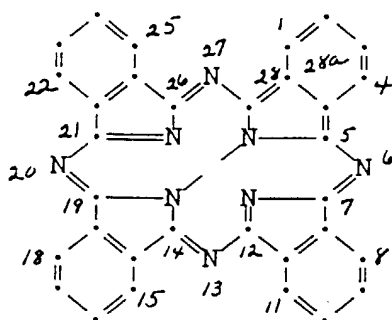
Similar compounds as disclosed in the prior art are taught to be useful for infrared inks, liquid crystal displays, optical recording devices, electrochemical chemiluminescence and as colorants. No mention is made of the use of these compounds as NIR(near infrared) fluorescent (or NIRF) "tags" for marking thermoplastics for identification and separation.

The preferred near infrared fluorescent compounds useful in the practice of the invention are selected from the classes of phthalocyanines, naphthalocyanines and squaraines (derivatives of squaric acid) and correspond to Formulae II, III and IV:



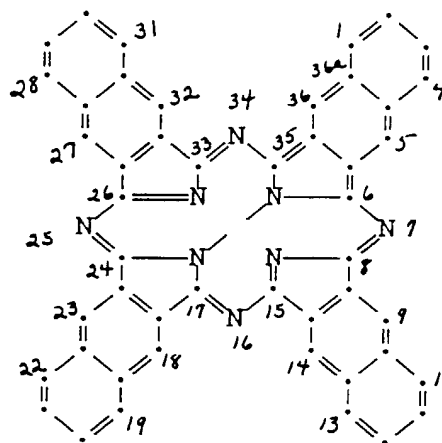
wherein Pc and Nc represent the phthalocyanine and naphthalocyanine moieties of Formulae IIa and IIIa,

Phthalocyanine



IIa

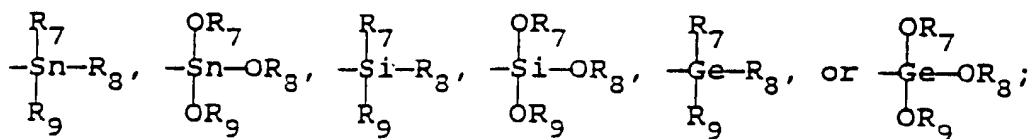
2,3-Naphthalocyanine



IIIa

respectively, covalently bonded to various metals, halometals, organometallic groups, and oxymetals selected from a list consisting of AlCl, AlBr, AlF, AlOH, AlOR₅, AlSR₅, Ca, Co, CrF, Fe, Ge, Ga, InCl, Mg, Mn, Ni, Pb, Pt, Pd, SiCl₂, SiF₂, SnCl₂, Sn(OR₆)₂, Si(OR₆)₂, Sn(SR₆)₂, Si(SR₆)₂, Sn, TiO, VO or Zn, wherein

R₅ and R₆ are selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, lower alkanoyl, trifluoroacetyl or groups of the formulae



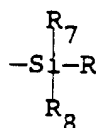
R₇, R₈ and R₉ are independently selected from alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted with lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or halogen;

X is selected from oxygen, sulfur, selenium, tellurium or a group of the formula N-R₁₀, wherein R₁₀ is hydrogen, cycloalkyl, alkyl, acyl, alkylsulfonyl, or aryl or R₁₀ and R taken together form an aliphatic or aromatic ring with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached;

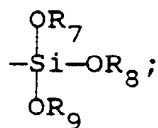
Y is selected from alkyl, halogen or hydrogen;

R is selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,

C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkylene

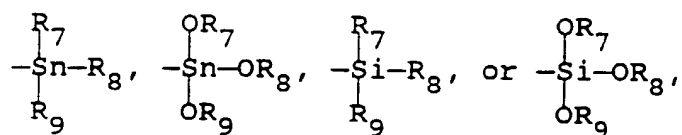


or alkylene

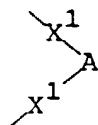


or

$-(X-R)_m$ is alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, or a group selected from the formulae $-X(C_2H_4O)_Z R^1$,



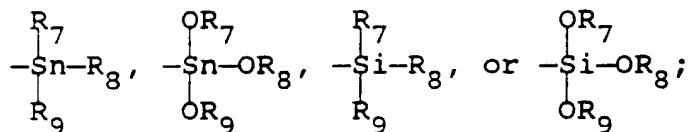
wherein R^1 is hydrogen or R as defined above; Z is an integer of from 1-4;
or two $-(X-R)_m$ groups can be taken together to form divalent substituents of the formula



wherein

each X^1 is independently selected from -O-, -S-, or -N- R_{10} and A is selected from ethylene; propylene; trimethylene;
and such groups substituted with C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, aryl and cycloalkyl; 1,2-phenylene and 1,2-phenylene
containing 1-3 substituents selected from C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy or halogen;

R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, aryloxy, lower alkylthio,
arylthio, lower alkylsulfonyl; arylsulfonyl; lower alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, cycloalkylsulfonylamino, car-
boxy, unsubstituted and substituted carbamoyl and sulfamoyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, hydroxy, lower alkanoyloxy,



R_3 and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl or aryl; n is an integer from 0-12; n_1 is
an integer from 0-24 (16), m is an integer from 4-16; m_1 is an integer from 0-16; provided that the sums of $n+m$
and n_1+m_1 are 16 and 24, respectively.

In a preferred embodiment of this aspect of the present invention m is from 4 to 12; m_1 is from 0-8; provided that
in the definitions of the substituents $(Y)_n$, $(Y)_{n_1}$ and $-(X-R)_{m_1}$ that these substituents are not present when n, n_1 and
 m_1 are zero, respectively. Substituents $(X-R)_m$ and $(Y)_n$ are present in compounds IIa on the peripheral carbon atoms,
i.e. in positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25 and substituents $(X-R)_{m_1}$ and $(Y)_{n_1}$ are present
on the peripheral carbon atoms of III, i.e. in positions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28,
29, 30, 31, 32 and 36.

In the above definitions, the term alkyl is used to designate a straight or branched chained hydrocarbon radical containing 1-20 carbons, preferably 1-12 carbons.

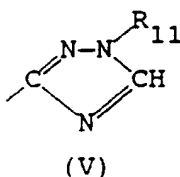
In the terms lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylthio, lower alkoxy carbonyl, lower alkanoyl and lower alkanoyloxy the alkyl portion of the groups contains 1-6 carbons and may contain a straight or branched chain.

The term "cycloalkyl" is used to represent a cyclic aliphatic hydrocarbon radical containing 3-8 carbons, preferably 5 to 7 carbons.

The alkyl and lower alkyl portions of the previously defined groups may contain as further substituents one or more groups selected from hydroxy, halogen, carboxy, cyano, C₁-C₄-alkoxy, aryl, C₁-C₄-alkylthio, arylthio, aryloxy, C₁-C₄-alkoxy carbonyl or C₁-C₄-alkanoyloxy.

The term "aryl" includes carbocyclic aromatic radicals containing 6-18 carbons, preferably phenyl and naphthyl, and such radicals substituted with one or more substituents selected from lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, lower alkylthio, N(lower alkyl)₂, trifluoromethyl, carboxy, lower alkoxy carbonyl, hydroxy, lower alkanoylamino, lower alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, cycloalkylsulfonylamino, lower alkanoyloxy, cyano, phenyl, phenylthio and phenoxy.

The term "heteroaryl" is used to represent mono or bicyclic hetero aromatic radicals containing at least one "hetero" atom selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen or a combination of these atoms. Examples of suitable heteroaryl groups include: thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, thienyl, furyl, thiadiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidinyl and triazolyl. These heteroaryl radicals may contain the same substituents listed above as possible substituents for the aryl radicals. The term triazolyl also includes structure V and mixed isomers thereof,



wherein R₁₁ is hydrogen or selected from lower alkyl and lower alkyl substituted with one or two groups selected from hydroxy, halogen, carboxy, lower alkoxy, aryl, cyano, cycloalkyl, lower alkanoyloxy or lower alkoxy carbonyl.

The terms "alkenyl and alkynyl" are used to denote aliphatic hydrocarbon moiety having 3-8 carbons and containing at least one carbon-carbon double bond and one carbon-carbon triple bond, respectively.

The term halogen is used to include bromine, chlorine, fluorine and iodine.

The term "substituted alkyl" is used to denote a straight or branched chain hydrocarbon radical containing 1-12 carbon atoms and containing as substituents 1 or 2 groups selected from hydroxy, halogen, carboxy, cyano, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, aryl, C₁-C₄ alkylthio, arylthio, aryloxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy carbonyl, or C₁-C₄ alkanoyloxy.

The term "substituted carbamoyl" is used to denote a radical having the formula -CONR₁₂R₁₃, wherein R₁₂ and R₁₃ are selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl.

The term "substituted sulfamoyl" is used to denote a radical having the formula -SO₂NR₁₂R₁₃, wherein R₁₂ and R₁₃ are as defined above.

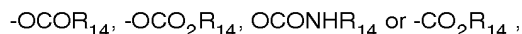
The term "alkylene" refers to a divalent C₁-C₁₂ aliphatic hydrocarbon moiety, either straight or branched-chain, and either unsubstituted or substituted with one or more groups selected from lower alkoxy, halogen, aryl, or aryloxy.

The term "acyl" refers to a group of the formula R^oC(O)-O-, wherein R^o is preferably a C₁-C₁₀ alkyl moiety. The term "alkyl sulfonyl" refers to a group of the formula R^oSO₂-, wherein R^o is as defined for acyl.

Preferred -X-R groups include those listed in Table I.

As noted above, the near infrared fluorescing compounds having reactive groups present may be copolymerized to produce thermoplastic compositions such as polyesters or polycarbonates containing the fluorophore covalently bound so that they will not be leachable, sublimable, extractable, or be exuded from the polymer composition. This feature is particularly desirable for thermoplastic polymers used for containers for comestibles such as beverages and food.

Thus, in a preferred embodiment of the invention there is provided a molding grade polyester, polyurethane, or polycarbonate condensation polymer having copolymerized therein a total of from about 0.1 ppm to 100 ppm of at least one thermally stable, near infrared fluorescing compound of Formulae II, III or IV above containing at least one reactive functional group, said group selected from hydroxy, carboxy or an ester radical having the formulae



wherein R₁₄ is selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, cycloalkyl or aryl radicals. R₁₄ preferably is unsubstituted

alkyl, e.g., alkyl of up to about 8 carbons, or phenyl, and most preferably lower alkyl, e.g., methyl and ethyl. The reactive group preferably is hydroxy, carboxy, carbomethoxy, carbethoxy or acetoxyl. The compounds normally contain 1 to about 8 reactive groups, preferably 2. Of course, when only one reactive group is present, chain termination may occur during reaction and when more than 2 reactive groups are present cross-linking occurs; however, when the near infrared fluorescing compounds are added at the extremely low levels needed to impart a detectable amount of fluorescence they do not significantly interfere with the polycondensation reaction.

In a further aspect of the invention, there is provided amorphous and partially crystalline polyesters containing at least one thermally stable, near infrared fluorescing compound, preferably a compound having the Formulae II, III or IV above, and containing two reactive groups copolymerized therein at a level of greater than 10 ppm to about 30.0 weight percent. The preferred level of the fluorophore percent is about 0.1 to about 10.0 weight percent. This "concentrate" composition containing the copolymerized "tagging" compound can be obtained as a powder or in pellet form and can be admixed with polyester or another thermoplastic polymer to provide a suitably "tagged" composition mentioned earlier. Such blends represent a further embodiment of the present invention.

The useful types of polyesters of this invention are linear, thermoplastic, crystalline or amorphous and have one or more near infrared fluorescing compounds, preferably of Formulae II, III or IV above copolymerized therein.

The diol components of the polyester may be comprised of, for example, ethylene glycol, 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol, 1,2-propanediol, 1,3-propanediol, 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol, 1,6-hexanediol, 1,2-cyclohexanediol, 1,4-cyclohexanediol, 1,10-decanediol, 1,2-cyclohexanedimethanol, 1,3-cyclohexanedimethanol, X,8-bis-(hydroxymethyl)-tricyclo-[5.2.1.0]-decane wherein X represents 3, 4, or 5; and diols containing one or more oxygen atoms in the chain, e.g., diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, or tripropylene glycol and the like. In general, these diols contain 2 to 18, preferably 2 to 12 carbon atoms. Cycloaliphatic diols can be employed in their cis or trans configuration or as a mixture of both forms.

The acid components (aliphatic, alicyclic, or aromatic dicarboxylic acids) of the polyester may consist of, for example, terephthalic acid, naphthalene-2,6-dicarboxylic acid, isophthalic acid, 1,4-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, 1,3-cyclohexanedicarboxylic acid, succinic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, sebacic acid, 1,12-dodecanedioic acid, and the like. In place of the dicarboxylic acids themselves, it is possible and often preferable to use a functional acid derivative thereof such as the dimethyl, diethyl, or dipropyl ester of the dicarboxylic acid. The anhydrides of the dicarboxylic acids can likewise be employed.

The polyesters can be produced using typical polycondensation techniques well known in the art.

Typical polycarbonates useful in the practice of the invention are disclosed in Kirk-Othmer Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, third edition, Vol. 18, pp 479-494.

A wide range of thermoplastic polymers suitable for blending with the above condensation polymers (which contain the NIRF(s)) is known in the art and includes polyesters e.g., poly(ethylene terephthalate) and poly(butylene terephthalate); polyolefins, e.g., polypropylene, polyethylene, linear low density polyethylene, polybutylene and copolymers made from ethylene, propylene and/or butylene; polyamides, e.g., nylon 6 and nylon 66; polyvinyl chloride; polyvinylidene chloride; polycarbonates; cellulose esters, e.g., cellulose acetate, propionate, butyrate or mixed esters; polyacrylates, e.g., poly(methyl methacrylate); polyimides; polyester-amides; polystyrene; ABS (acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene) type polymers, and (TPO) thermoplastic oligomers, etc.

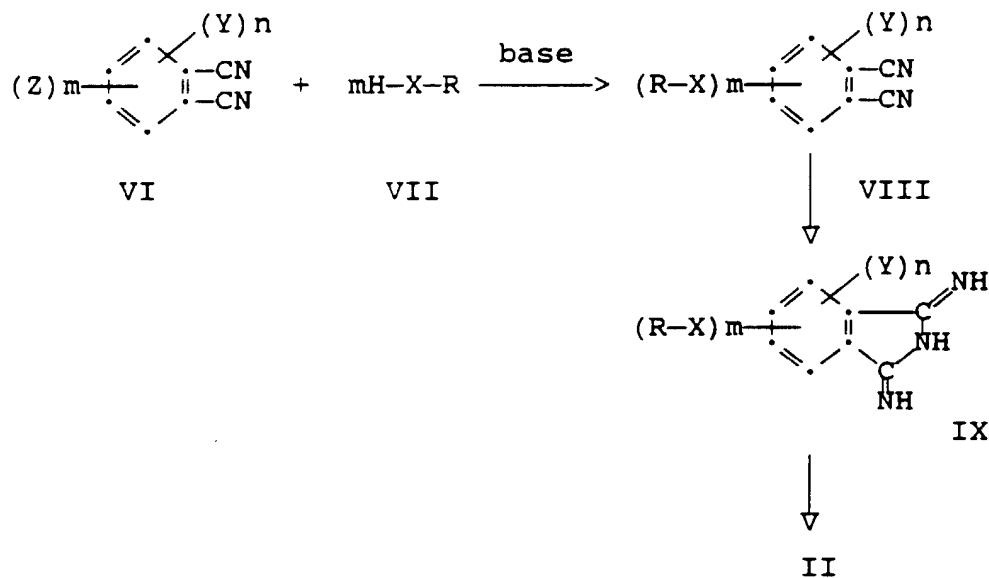
In the practice of one aspect of the invention the NIR fluorophores are incorporated into the thermoplastic resins using conventional techniques such as those employed to incorporate other additives in such resins (see R. Gächter and H. Müller, Editors, *Plastics Additives Handbook*, Hanser Publishers, New York, 1985, pp 507-533; 729-741). For example, the NIR fluorophores may be dry blended in the form of powders with the thermoplastic materials in the form of pellets or powders, with or without an adhesion promoter or a dispersing agent. This premix can be subsequently processed on extruders or molding machines. In some cases, solution blending may also be preferable. Of course, other conventional additives such as plasticizers, antioxidants, stabilizers, nucleating agents, etc., may also be present in the thermoplastic compositions of the invention.

The levels of the NIRF present in the final "tagged" thermoplastic composition may vary considerably depending upon the molar extinction coefficient and the fluorescing efficiency of the added fluorophore. It is generally desirable that the fluorophore be present at the lowest practical level needed to produce a satisfactory fluorescence detection level to avoid minimizing any color problems resulting from the presence of the fluorophore in the thermoplastic and to minimize cost. Normally, with suitable fluorescence efficiency the NIRF is added in the amount of from about 0.5 ppm to about 100 ppm, with about 1 ppm to about 10 ppm being preferred.

Two general routes are available for the synthesis of NIRF compounds of Formula II. Route I involves the reaction of substituted phthalonitriles VI containing one or more leaving groups Z with one or more nucleophiles VII (A. W. Snow and J. R. Griffith, *Macromolecules*, 1984, 17 (1614-1624), in the presence of a high boiling polar solvent such as N,N-dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methyl-2-pyrrolidinone, tetramethylurea, and hexamethylphosphotriamide to give intermediates VIII, which are further reacted by known procedures to give compounds II directly in a one-pot process or to give the isoindoline derivatives IX, which are converted into the desired phthalocyanines II by known

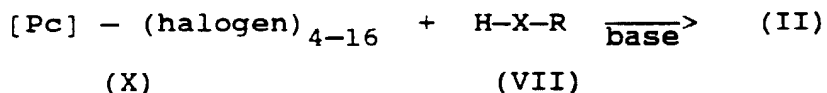
processes.

Route 1



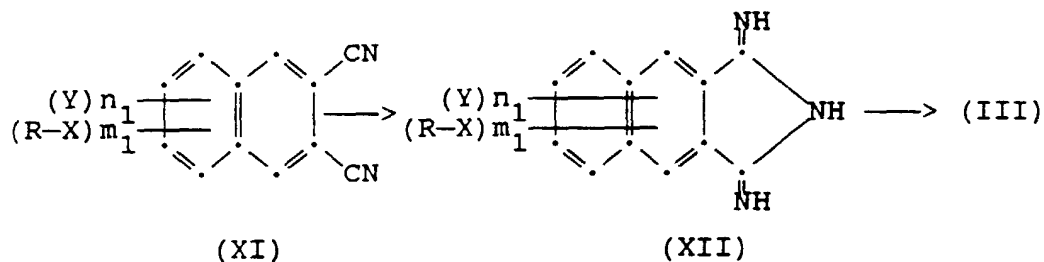
Of course, the starting compounds VI may contain further substituents which are not replaced by reaction with the nucleophile. Route 2 employs similar reaction conditions, as involved in initial step of Route 1, and makes use of the reactivity of the halogen atoms in polyhalo phthalocyanines X, containing 4-16 halogen atoms attached at peripheral carbon atoms, with nucleophiles VII (UK 1,537,375 and U.S. 4,606,859) to give NIRF compounds II.

Route 2

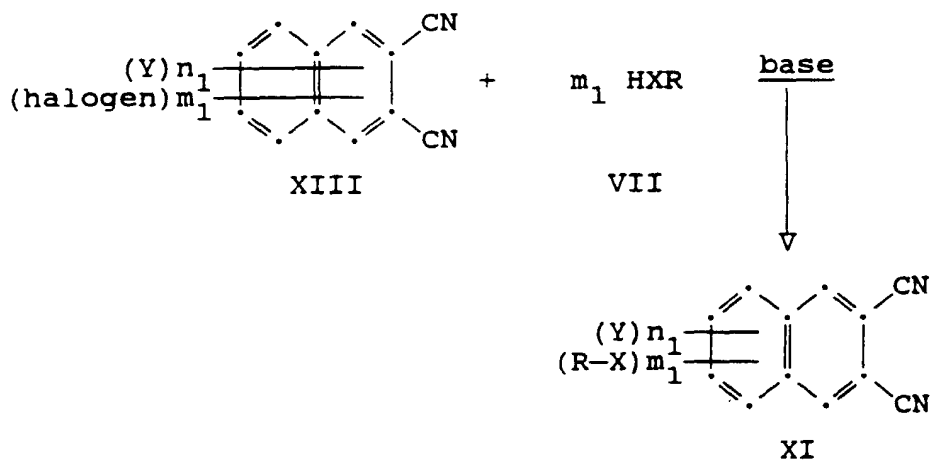


In the above nucleophilic reactions utilized in Routes 1 and 2, the base, or acid binding agent, may be an alkali metal hydroxide, an alkali metal bicarbonate or an alkali metal carbonate. For example, sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, lithium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, sodium bicarbonate are suitable bases.

The 2,3-naphthalocyanines of Formula III can be prepared by reacting 2,3-naphthalene-dicarbonitrile compounds XI to give 1,3-diiminobenz[f]-isoindolines XII, which are then converted to the naphthalocyanines of Formulae III by known procedures [J.A.C.S. 1984, 106, 7404-7410; U.S. Patent No. 5,039,600, incorporated herein by reference; Zn. Obshch. Khim, 1972, 42(3), 696-9 (CA 77: 141469m); Jap. Pat. 61,215,663 (CA 106: 86223s)].

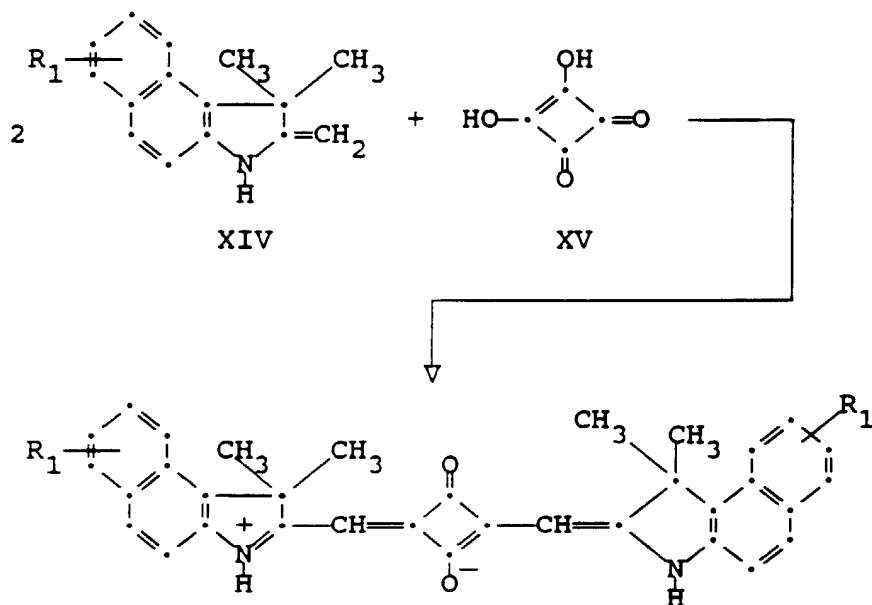


Intermediate compounds XI which contain one or more electron donating groups (-X-R) are conveniently prepared by reacting intermediate 2,3-naphthalene-carbonitriles XIII



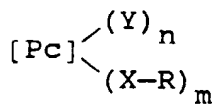
containing replaceable halogens with one or more nucleophiles under reaction conditions which favor nucleophilic displacements (J. Heterocyclic Chem. 1990, Vol. 27, Iss. 7, pp 2219-20).

The squaraines of Formula IV can be prepared by reacting the corresponding unsubstituted and substituted 1,3-dihydro-2-methylene-1,1-dimethyl-1H-benz[e]indoles with squaric acid [S. Cohen, et al., JACS, 81, 3480 (1959)]. The reactions of squaric acid are well known in the art [R. West, editor, OXOCARBONS, Academic Press, New York, 1980, pp 185-231; G. Maahs and P. Hagenberg, Angew. Chem. internat. Edit., Vol. 5 (1966), No. 10, p 888; A. H. Schmidt, Synthesis, December 1980, p, 961]. The intermediate 1,3-dihydro-2-methylene-1,1-dimethyl-1H-benz[e]indoles XIV can be synthesized by known procedures [U.S. Pat. 5,030,708]. The synthetic route is illustrated as follows:

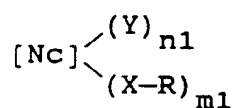


Intermediate 1,3-dihydro-2-methylene-1,1-dimethyl-1H-benz[e] indoles XIV are reacted with squaric acid XV as shown to produce the squaraines. Of course, an unsymmetrical derivative is obtained as one of the components of the mixture prepared by reacting a mixture of two or more different intermediate benz[e]indole compounds XIV with squaric acid.

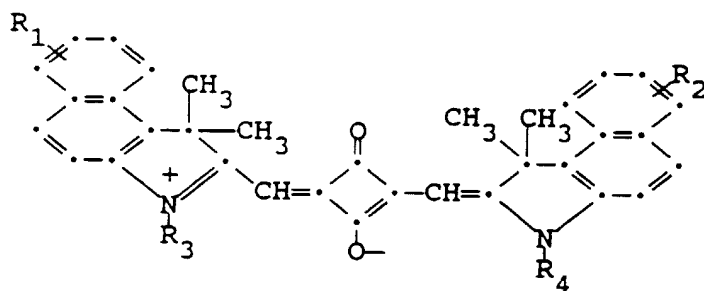
Thus, as a further aspect of the present invention, there is provide a compound of Formulae II, III, or IV:



(II)

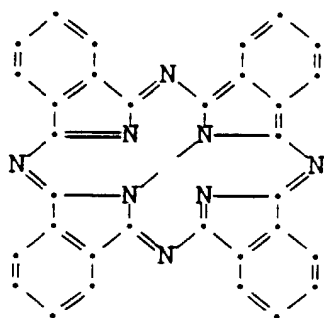


(III)

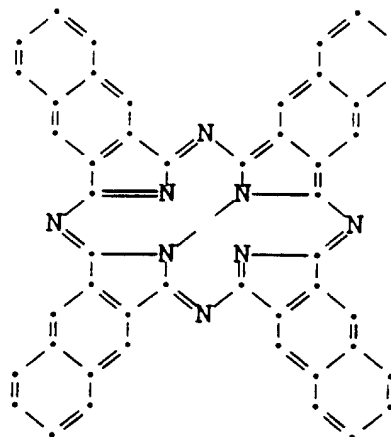


IV

wherein Pc and Nc represent the phthalocyanine and 2,3-naphthalocyanine moieties of Formulae IIa and IIIa,



IIa



IIIa

respectively, covalently bonded to various organometallic groups selected from a list consisting of AlOR_5 , AlSR_5 , $\text{Si}(\text{OR}_6)_2$, $\text{Si}(\text{SR}_6)_2$, or $\text{Sn}(\text{SR}_6)_2$, wherein

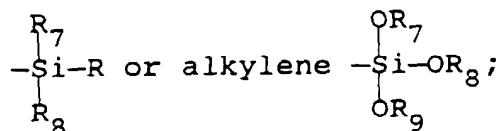
R_5 and R_6 are aryl or heteroaryl;

X is selected from oxygen, sulfur, selenium, tellurium or N-R_{10} , wherein R_{10} is hydrogen, cycloalkyl, alkyl, acyl, alkylsulfonyl, or aryl or R_{10} and R taken together form an aliphatic or aromatic ring with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached;

Y is selected from alkyl, halogen or hydrogen;

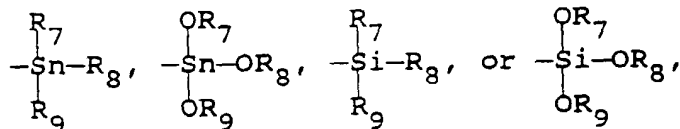
R is selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,

C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkylene

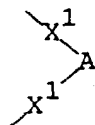


or

$-(\text{X-R})_m$ is alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, or a group selected from the formulae $-\text{X}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_z\text{R}^1$,



wherein R^1 is hydrogen or R as defined above; Z is an integer of from 1-4; or two $-(\text{X-R})_m$ groups can be taken together to form divalent substituents of the formula



wherein

each X^1 is independently selected from -O-, -S-, or -N-R₁₀ and A is selected from ethylene; propylene; trimethylene; and such groups substituted with C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, aryl and cycloalkyl; 1,2-phenylene and 1,2-phenylene containing 1-3 substituents selected from C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy or halogen;

R₁ and R₂ are polyester reactive groups;

R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl or aryl; n is an integer from 0-12; n₁ is an integer from 0-24 (16), m is an integer from 4-16; m₁ is an integer from 0-16; provided that the sums of n+m and n₁+m₁ are 16 and 24, respectively, further provided that at least one polyester reactive groups is present.

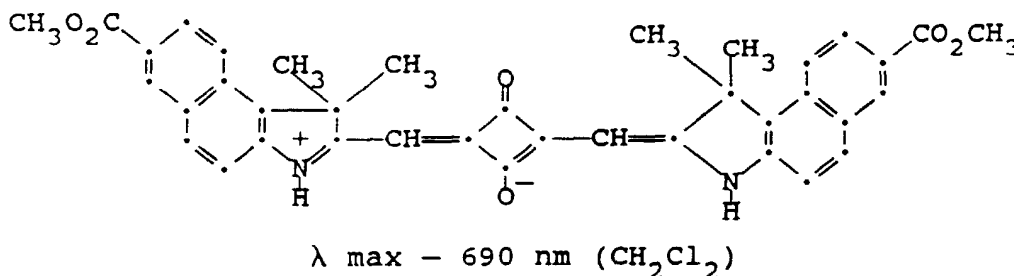
As a preferred embodiment of this aspect of the present invention, there is provided the above compounds substituted by at least two polyester reactive groups.

The following examples illustrate further the practice of the invention.

Experimental Section

Example 1

A mixture of methyl 1,1,2-trimethyl-1H-benz[e]indole-7-carboxylate (tautomer is methyl 1,3-dihydro-2-methylene-1,1-dimethyl-1H-benz[e]indole-7-carboxylate), 2.67 g (0.01 M) (see U.S. Pat. 5,030,708), squaric acid (0.57 g, 0.005 M) and 2-ethoxyethanol (40 g) was heated at reflux under nitrogen for 16 hours. The reaction mixture was cooled with an ice bath and the green solid collected by filtration, washed with isopropanol and dried in air. Recrystallization from 2-ethoxyethanol (20 mL), collection of the solid by filtration, washing of the solid with isopropanol and drying gave the pure product. Mass spectrometry indicated mostly the following structure plus a small amount



of the mono 2-ethoxyethyl ester which had been produced by transesterification. In methylene chloride an absorption maximum ($\lambda \text{ max}$) was observed in the visible-near infrared absorption spectrum at 690 nm (ϵ -214,287).

Example 2

The following materials were placed in a 500 mL three-necked, round-bottom flask:

116.3 g (0.60 mole) dimethyl terephthalate
81.0 g (0.90 mole) 1,4-butanediol
0.0132 g Ti from a n-butanol solution of titanium tetraisopropoxide
0.132 g (2.16×10^{-4} mole) near infrared fluorophore of Example 1

The flask was equipped with a nitrogen inlet, stirrer, vacuum outlet, and condensing flask. The flask and contents were heated in a Belmont metal bath with a nitrogen sweep over the reaction mixture as the temperature was increased to 200°C and then to 215°C over 2 hours. Over the next 1.0 hour the temperature was increased to about 230°C. Vacuum was applied until the pressure was reduced to 0.5 mm Hg. The polycondensation was completed by heating the flask and contents at about 230°C for about 1.0 hour under a pressure of 0.1 to 0.5 mm Hg. The flask was removed from the metal bath and was allowed to cool while the polymer solidified. The resulting pale green polyester, containing about 1000 ppm of the squaraine near infrared fluorophore residue, has an inherent viscosity of 0.44, a weight average molecular weight of 23,367, a number average molecular weight of 15,482, a polydispersity value of 1.51 and a melting temperature of 226°C.

Example 3

TENITE® brand polypropylene P5-029 (Eastman Kodak Company) (9,900 g) was dry blended with 100 g of polymer of Example 2 which had been ground using a Wiley mill.

The materials were compounded and extruded using a Sterling 1.25 inch single-screw extruder at a maximum temperature of about 220°C to produce pellets, which were then molded into a thin-walled container having a wall thickness of 20-25 mils. The polymer sample, which contains about 10 ppm of the near infrared fluorophore, exhibits strong fluorescence when exposed to light generated by a laser diode source at 672 nm. A maximum at about 712 nm is observed in the emission spectrum.

Example 4

A 300 mL 3-neck round-bottom flask was equipped with a magnetic stirrer, thermometer and gas inlet tube. Methanol (50 mL) was added followed by sodium metal (0.66 g, 0.029 mole) with stirring to facilitate reaction and solution, with a slow nitrogen purge applied. To this solution was added 12.54 g (0.058 mole) of 4-phenoxyphthalonitrile (A. W. Snow and J. R. Griffith, *Macromolecules*, 1984, 17, 1614-24), followed by additional methanol (50 mL). Anhydrous ammonia was bubbled in under the surface, giving an exotherm to 45°C and total solution. The ammonia addition was continued until no more starting material was evident by thin-layer chromatography. The solution was clarified by filtering through a pad of Dicalite filter aid which had a small layer of charcoal on it and the filtrate drowned into water. The oily product layer thus produced was washed by decantation with 500 mL portions of water (4-5 times or until pH reached about 7-8). After the final wash water was decanted off, methanol was added to dissolve the product, which crystallized upon stirring overnight at room temperature. After being collected by filtration, the greenish-yellow solid was washed with methylene chloride and dried in air. The yield was 13.75 g, 91.1% of the theoretical yield. Mass spectrometry showed the product to consist largely of the desired 5-phenoxy-1,3-diiminoisoindoline.

Example 5

A mixture of 5-phenoxy-1,3-diiminoisoindoline (3.68 g, 0.016 m) (from Example 4), 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (20 mL) and tri-n-butylamine (10 mL) was stirred under a nitrogen sweep. Aluminum chloride (3.19 g, 0.024 m) was added to give a slurry. After the reaction mixture was heated at about 180°C for 4 hours, it was allowed to cool to room temperature and diluted with methanol to enhance solubility to facilitate transfer into about 500 mL of ice-water mixture containing 10 mL HCl. The somewhat "greasy" solid product was collected by filtration and washed with dilute HCl. The filter cake was washed on the filter with cyclohexane and finally washed thoroughly with ethyl acetate and dried in air. Mass spectrometry indicated good quality 2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetraphenoxy-Pc-Al-Cl (Pc = phthalocyanine moiety) having the desired molecular weight of 942 (1.56 g, 41.4 % of the theoretical yield).

Example 6

A portion (110 mg) of the tetraphenoxy-chloroaluminumphthalocyanine of Example 5 was dissolved in trifluoroacetic acid (10 mL) and allowed to evaporate at room temperature. As evidenced by mass spectrometry, the residual product was mostly 2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetraphenoxy-Pc-AlOCOCF₃, molecular weight 1020. In methylene chloride, absorption maxima were observed at 696 nm (ϵ - 126,170), 629 nm (ϵ - 26,697), 341 nm (ϵ - 58,872) and 292 nm (ϵ - 30,600) in the ultraviolet, visible, near-infrared absorption spectra.

Example 7

The following compounds were placed in a 500 mL, single-necked, round-bottom flask:

129.98 g (0.67 mol) dimethyl terephthalate
 83.08 g (1.34 mol) ethylene glycol
 1.04 mL of a n-butanol solution of acetyl-triisopropyl titanate which contained
 0.0128 g Ti
 5 0.0013 g (1.27×10^{-6} mol) near infrared fluorophore of Example 6

The flask was equipped with a nitrogen inlet, stirrer, vacuum outlet, and condensing flask. The flask and contents were heated at 200°C in a Belmont metal bath for 60 minutes, at 210°C for 75 minutes, and at 230°C for 50 minutes with a nitrogen sweep over the reaction mixture. The temperature of the bath was increased to 270°C. With a stream
 10 of nitrogen bleeding in the system, vacuum was applied slowly at 270°C over a 10 minute period until the pressure was reduced to 100 mm Hg. The flask and contents were heated at 270°C under a pressure of 100 mm Hg for 30 minutes. The metal bath temperature was increased to 285°C and the pressure was reduced to 4.5 mm Hg over a 10 minute period. The flask and contents were heated at 285°C under a pressure of 4.5 mm Hg for 25 minutes. Then the
 15 pressure was reduced to 0.3 mm Hg and polycondensation was continued at 285°C for 16 minutes. The flask was removed from the metal bath and was allowed to cool while the polymer crystallized. The resulting polymer has an inherent viscosity of 0.55 measured in a 60/40 ratio by weight of phenol/tetrachloroethane at a concentration of 0.5 g per 100 mL. The resulting polymer contains about 10 ppm of the phthalocyanine near infrared fluorescent compound and has a weight average molecular weight of 38,051, a number average molecular weight of 21,078, a polydispersity of 1.80 and a melting temperature of 255°C. The sample was ground in a Wiley mill and a film sample prepared by
 20 compression molding of approximately 1 g granules to form a 13-mil thick film using a 2-inch diameter, circular mold at 285°C and 4500 pounds ram force (4 inch ram) in a Pasadena Hydraulic, Inc. press. The film had a very slight yellowish-green color and when exposed to 672 nm wavelength light from a laser diode source exhibited a strong fluorescence with a maximum intensity of emitted light at wavelength of approximately 700 nm.

25 Example 8

A reaction mixture of tetraphenoxy-chloroaluminum phthalocyanine (0.94 g) of Example 5, dimethyl-3-hydrox-
 yisophthalate (0.24 g) and pyridine (20 g) was heated at reflux for 24 hours and allowed to cool to room temperature. Added isopropanol (20 mL) and then precipitated, by the addition of water, the phthalocyanine product, which was
 30 collected by filtration, washed with water and dried in air (yield - 0.90 g). In methylene chloride, absorption maxima were observed at 696 nm (104,585), 626 nm (32,882) and 343 nm (64,090) in the ultraviolet, visible and near infrared absorption spectra.

35 Example 9

The near infrared fluorophore (0.0013 g) of Example 8 was added to dimethyl terephthalate (129.98 g), 0.67 mole) and ethylene glycol (83.08 g, 1.34 mole).
 Titanium catalyst (1.04 mL of a n-butanol containing 0.0128 g of Ti as acetyl triisopropyl titanate) was added and the polymerization reaction carried out under the conditions described in Example 7. The resulting very pale green polymer
 40 contains approximately 10 ppm of the near infrared fluorophore and has an inherent viscosity of 0.50, a weight average molecular weight of 34,310, a number average molecular weight of 22,247, a polydispersity of 1.54 and a melting temperature of 253°C. A 13-mil thick film was prepared as in Example 7. When exposed to 672 nm light from a laser diode source the film exhibited a strong fluorescence with a maximum intensity of emitted light at approximately 700 nm.

45 Example 10

The following compounds were placed in a 500 mL three-neck, round bottom flask:

116.38 g (0.60 mole) dimethyl terephthalate
 50 81.00 g (0.90 mole) 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol
 0.0128 g Ti from a n-butanol solution of titanium tetraisopropoxide

The flask was equipped with a nitrogen inlet, stirrer, vacuum outlet and condensing flask. The flask and contents were heated in a Belmont metal bath with a nitrogen sweep over the reaction mixture as the temperature was increased
 55 to 200°C and then to 230°C over 1.5 hours. The reaction temperature was increased to about 250°C over 1 hour and the near infrared fluorophore of Example 1 (0.0396 g, 6.47×10^{-5} mole) was added. A vacuum was applied until the pressure was reduced to about 0.5 mm Hg and heating continued at 250°C and at 0.1-0.5 mm Hg for about 10 minutes. The flask was removed from the metal bath and allowed to cool while the polymer solidified. The very light green

polymer which contained about 300 ppm of the NIRF has an inherent viscosity of 0.21, a weight average molecular weight of 12,437, a number average molecular weight of 7,993, a polydispersity of 1.55 and no melting temperature by differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) analysis.

5 Example 11

TENITE® brand polypropylene P5-029 (Eastman Kodak Company) (9,900 g) was dry blended with 100 g of polymer of Example 9, which had been previously ground using a Wiley mill, and the mixture compounded and extruded at a maximum temperature of about 220°C to produce pellets, which were then molded into a thin-walled container having a wall thickness of about 20-25 mils. The polymer sample, which contains about 3 ppm of the NIRF, exhibits strong fluorescence when exposed to light generated by a laser diode source at 672 nm. A maximum at about 708 nm was observed in the emission spectrum.

15 Example 12

A mixture of 5-phenoxy-1,3-diiminoisoindoline (3.68 g, 0.016 mole), silicon tetrachloride (4.0 g, 0.024 mole) 1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene (20 mL) and tri-n-butylamine (10 mL) was heated under nitrogen at about 200°C for 40 minutes, allowed to stir overnight at room temperature and reheated to 180°C and held for about 2.0 hours. After cooling to room temperature, the reaction mixture was diluted with 30 mL of methanol, filtered, and the collected solid washed with methanol and dried in air (yield - 2.71 g, 69.3% of the theoretical yield). Mass spectrometry supported the structure: 2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetraphenoxy -Pc-Si-(Cl)₂.

25 Example 13

A mixture of the tetraphenoxy-dichlorosilicon-phthalocyanine (0.49 g) of Example 12, methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate (0.16 g) and pyridine (5 g) was heated at reflux for 3 hours under nitrogen. To the cooled reaction mixture were added isopropanol (20 mL) and then water (20 mL) with stirring. The product was collected by filtration, washed with water and dried in air. Mass spectrometry supports the structure: 2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetraphenoxy- Pc-Si-(OC₆H₄-4-CO₂CH₃)₂.

30 Example 14

The near infrared fluorophore (0.0013 g, 1.07 x 10⁻⁶ mole) of Example 13 was added to ethylene glycol (83.08 g, 1.34 mole) and dimethyl terephthalate (129.98 g, 0.67 mole) and the polymerization reaction carried out as described in Example 7 in the presence of 0.0128 g titanium catalyst. The resulting pale green polymer contains approximately 10 ppm of the NIRF and has an inherent viscosity of 0.82, a melting temperature of 252°C by DSC, a weight average molecular weight of 59,274, a number average molecular weight of 31,578 and a polydispersity of 1.88. The polymer was ground in a Wiley mill and a film having a thickness of about 13 mils was prepared as in Example 7. When the film was exposed to 672 nm wavelength light from a laser diode source, significant fluorescence with a maximum intensity of emitted light at wavelength of approximately 698 nm was observed.

40 Example 15

A mixture of silicon phthalocyanine dichloride (0.2 g) was dissolved in trifluoroacetic acid (10 mL) and the reaction mixture allowed to stand in a hood in an evaporating dish until all the the excess trifluoroacetic acid had evaporated. Absorption maxima were observed at 691 nm (ε - 168,645), 659 nm (ε - 21,596), 622 nm (ε - 24,789), 356 (ε - 50,090) and 334 nm (44,608) in the ultraviolet-visible-near infrared absorption spectra. The product was assumed to be silicon phthalocyanine trifluoroacetate (Pc-Si(OCOCF₃)₂).

50 Example 16

The NIRF compound of Example 15 (0.0013 g, 1.70 x 10⁻⁶ mole) was added to dimethyl terephthalate (129.98 g) and ethylene glycol (83.08 g, 1.34 mole) and the polymerization reaction carried out as in Example 7 in the presence of 0.0128 g Ti (from a n-butanol solution of acetyl-triisopropyl titanate). The pale blue green polymer contains approximately 10 ppm of the NIRF and has an inherent viscosity of 0.52, a weight average molecular weight of 35,646, a number average molecular weight of 19,737, a polydispersity of 1.81 and a melting temperature of 256°C. The polymer was ground in a Wiley mill and a film having a thickness of about 13 mils was prepared as in Example 7. When the film was exposed to 672 nm wavelength light from a laser diode source, significant fluorescence over the wavelength

range of about 675 to about 780 nm was emitted with apparent emission maxima at about 687 nm and 755 nm.

Example 17

5 The following compounds were placed in a 500 mL three-neck, round bottom flask:

116.40 g (0.60 mole) dimethyl terephthalate
 81.00 g (0.90 mole) 2-methyl-1,3-propanediol
 0.0133 g Ti from a n-butanol solution of titanium tetrakisopropoxide
 10 1.60 g (2.07×10^{-3} mole) Nc-Si-(OH)₂
 (B. L. Wheeler, et al., J.A.C.S. 1984,
 106, 7404-7410; Nc represents naphthaholocyanine)

The flask was equipped with a nitrogen inlet, stirrer, vacuum outlet and condensing flask. The flask and contents
 15 were heated in a Belmont metal bath with a nitrogen sweep over the reaction mixture and the temperature was increased
 to about 200°C and then to 230°C over about 1.5 hour. The reaction temperature was increased to about 250°C over
 1 hour and then vacuum was applied and heating continued at about 250°C for about 1.0 hour at 0.1 to 0.5 mm Hg.
 The flask was removed from the metal bath and allowed to cool while the polymer solidified. The very pale yellowish-
 green polymer contains about 1.0% by weight of the NIRF and has an inherent viscosity of 0.44, a weight average
 20 molecular weight of 25,053, a number average molecular weight of 13,710, a polydispersity of 1.83 and a melting
 temperature of about 157°C. The polymer was ground in a Wiley mill.

Example 18

25 Poly(ethylene terephthalate) (6,000 g) having an inherent viscosity of about 0.71, which had been ground using a
 Wiley mill to a particle size of about 2 mm, was blended with 1.0 g of the polymer containing the NIRF of Example 17.
 This blend was vacuum dried at about 110°C for 16 hours and then compounded and extruded using a Sterling 1.25
 inch single-screw extruder at a maximum temperature of 270°C to produce pellets, which were molded into a thin-
 walled container having a wall thickness of about 13 mils. The polymer sample contains about 1-2 ppm of the near
 30 infrared fluorophore. When a sample of the side wall is exposed to infrared light in a near infrared spectrophotometer
 set on a wavelength of 780 nm, a broad band fluorescence is observed with a peak at about 795 nm.

Example 19

35 A reaction mixture of Nc-Si(OH)₂ (1.5 g) (J.A.C.S. 1984, 106, 7404-7410), pyridine (150 mL) and chloro dimeth-
 ylphenylsilane (10 mL) was heated at reflux for 5 hours and then allowed to cool. Some insolubles were filtered off and
 the filtrate stripped on a rotary evaporator under vacuum. Pentane (300 mL) was added to the residue to produce a
 solid upon stirring which was collected by filtration, washed with 50/50 acetone/water, then with pentane and dried in
 air. The solid (1.9 g) was reslurried in hot pentane (300 mL) and filtered hot. The solid thus obtained was washed with
 40 pentane and air dried (yield - 1.5 g). Mass spectrometry supported the following structure Nc-Si[O-Si(CH₃)₂C₆H₅]₂.

Example 20

45 The following materials were placed in a 500-mL three-necked, round-bottom flask:

116.40 g (0.60 mole) dimethyl terephthalate
 81.00 g (0.90 mole) 1,4-butanediol
 0.0132 g Ti from a n-butanol solution of titanium tetrakisopropoxide 0.132 g (1.27×10^{-4} mole) NIRF of Example 19

50 The flask was equipped with a nitrogen inlet, stirrer, vacuum outlet, and condensing flask. The flask and contents
 were heated in a Belmont metal bath with a nitrogen sweep over the reaction mixture as the temperature was increased
 to 200°C and then to 230°C over 2 hours. Over the next 1.0 hour the temperature was increased to about 250°C.
 Vacuum was applied until the pressure was reduced to 0.5 mm Hg. The polycondensation was completed by heating
 55 the flask and contents at about 250°C for about 1.0 hour under a pressure of 0.1 to 0.5 mm Hg. The flask was removed
 from the metal bath and was allowed to cool while the polymer solidified. The resulting polyester, containing about
 1,000 ppm of the NIRF of Example 19, has an inherent viscosity of 0.79, a weight average molecular weight of 43,573,
 a number average molecular weight of 25,230, a polydispersity value of 1.73 and a melting temperature of 228°C. The

sample was ground in a Wiley mill.

Example 21

Poly(ethylene terephthalate) (6,000 g) having an inherent viscosity of about 0.71, which had been ground using a Wiley mill to a particle size of about 2 mm, was dry blended with 10.0 g of the polymer composition of Example 20, which contained about 1,000 ppm of the NIRF. This blend was dried in a vacuum oven at 110°C for 16 hours and then compounded and extruded into pellets using a Sterling 1.25 inch compounding single-screw extruder at about 280°C. The pellets were molded into a thin-walled bottle having a side wall thickness of about 13 mils and containing about 1-2 ppm of the NIRF. When a sample of the side wall is exposed to infrared light in a near infrared spectrophotometer set on a wavelength of 780 nm, a broad band fluorescence is observed with a peak at about 800 nm.

Example 22

Tolylene 2,4-diisocyanate (8.7 g, 0.05 M) was added dropwise to a solution of N,N-dimethylformamide (100 mL) which contained 4.50 g (0.05 M) and 13.4 mg (1.0×10^{-5} M) of Nc-Si(OH)₂ (B. Wheeler, *et al.*, J.A.C.S. 1984, 106, 7404-7410). After the addition was completed the reaction mixture was heated at 80-85°C with stirring for 0.5 hours and then allowed to cool to room temperature.

Methanol (5.0 mL) was added and the solution was then drowned into water containing 5 mL of saturated salt solution. The essentially white polyurethane polymer was collected by filtration, washed with 2.0 L of water and then dried in air. The yield was 12.2 g of polymer which contains about 0.1% by weight of the NIRF and which has an inherent viscosity of 0.14, a weight average molecular weight of 8,253, a number average molecular weight of 6,083 and a polydispersity of 1.35. A sample of the polymer when dissolved in N,N-dimethylformamide showed a maximum absorption (λ max) at 775 nm in the near infrared absorption spectrum, with another less intense absorption band having a maximum absorption at about 690 nm.

Additional examples of compounds having Formulae II, III and IV are presented in Tables 3, 4 and 2, respectively.

TABLE 1

EXEMPLARY -X-R Groups

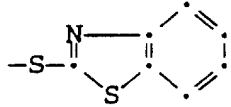
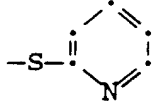
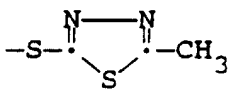
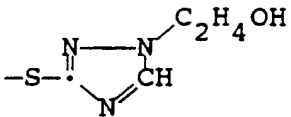
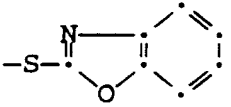
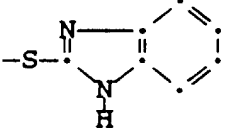
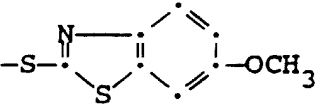
<u>-X-R</u>	<u>-X-R</u>
$-\text{OCH}_3$	
$-\text{OC}_4\text{H}_9\text{-n}$	
$-\text{OC}(\text{CH}_3)_3$	
$-\text{OC}_{12}\text{H}_{25}\text{-n}$	
$-\text{SCH}_3$	
$-\text{SC}_2\text{H}_4\text{OH}$	
$-\text{SC}_8\text{H}_{17}\text{-n}$	

TABLE 1
(Continued)

EXEMPLARY -X-R Groups

<u>-X-R</u>	<u>-X-R</u>
$-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)\text{C}_4\text{H}_9-n$	$-\text{S}-\text{N}=\text{N}-\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$
$-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$	$-\text{S}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{OCH}_3$
$-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3$	$-\text{Te}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-\text{CH}_3$
$-\text{SCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	$-\text{Se}-\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-$
$-\text{SCH}_2\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$	$-\text{OCH}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4-4-\text{COOH}$
$-\text{OCH}_2\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$	$-\text{OC}_6\text{H}_4-4-\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$
$-\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_5)_2$	$-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$
$-\text{NHC}_6\text{H}_5$	$-\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{OCOCH}_3$
$-\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$	$-\text{O}-\text{C}_6\text{F}_5$
$-\text{N}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{OH})_2$	$-\text{OC}_6\text{H}_4-4-\text{Cl}$

TABLE 1
(Continued)

EXEMPLARY -X-R Groups

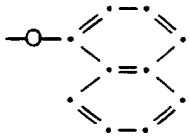
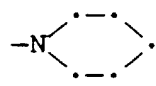
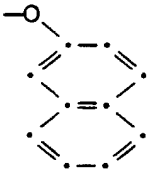
<u>-X-R</u>	<u>-X-R</u>
$-\text{NHC}_6\text{H}_{11}$	
	
$-\text{OC}_6\text{H}_5$	$-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{H}$
$-\text{OC}_6\text{H}_4-4-\text{COOH}$	$-\text{S}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{H}$
$-\text{SC}_6\text{H}_4-4-\text{COOH}$	$-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_4\text{H}$
$-\text{OC}_6\text{H}_3-3,5-\text{diCOOH}$	$-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_3\text{CH}_3$
$-\text{OC}_6\text{H}_3-3,5-\text{diCO}_2\text{CH}_3$	$-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$
$-\text{SC}_6\text{H}_4-2-\text{COOH}$	$-\text{NH}(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_2\text{H}$
$-\text{SC}_6\text{H}_4-3-\text{CO}_2\text{CH}_3$	
$-\text{OC}_6\text{H}_4-4-\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{OH}$	

TABLE 1
(Continued)

EXEMPLARY -X-R Groups

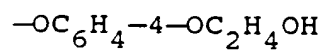
-X-R-X-R

TABLE 2

Ex. No.	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄
23	7-CO ₂ CH ₃	7-CO ₂ CH ₃	CH ₃	CH ₃
24	7-CO ₂ C ₂ H ₅	7-CO ₂ C ₂ H ₅	C ₆ H ₅	C ₆ H ₅
25	7-CO ₂ C ₆ H ₅	7-CO ₂ C ₆ H ₅	C ₆ H ₄ -4-CH ₃	C ₆ H ₄ -4-CH ₃
26	7-CONH ₂	7-CONH ₂	H	H
27	7-CONHC ₂ H ₄ OH	7-CONHC ₂ H ₄ OH	H	H
28	7-CON(CH ₃)C ₂ H ₄ OH	7-CON(CH ₃)C ₂ H ₄ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃
29	7-CON(C ₂ H ₄ OH) ₂	7-CON(C ₂ H ₄ OH) ₂	H	H

TABLE 2
(Continued)

Ex. No.	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄
30	7-CONHC ₆ H ₁₁	7-CONHC ₆ H ₁₁	C ₄ H ₉ -n	C ₄ H ₉ -n
31	7-CONHC ₆ H ₅	7-CONHC ₆ H ₅	H	H
32	7-CONHCH ₂ C ₆ H ₁₀ -4-CH ₂ OH	7-CONHCH ₂ C ₆ H ₁₀ -4-CH ₂ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃
33	7-CONHC ₆ H ₄ -4-CO ₂ CH ₃	7-CONHC ₆ H ₄ -4-CO ₂ CH ₃	H	H
34	7-SO ₂ NH ₂	7-SO ₂ NH ₂	H	H
35	7-SO ₂ N(C ₂ H ₅) ₂	7-SO ₂ N(C ₂ H ₅) ₂	CH ₃	CH ₃
36	7-SO ₂ N(CH ₃)C ₆ H ₁₁	7-SO ₂ N(CH ₃)C ₆ H ₁₁	CH ₃	CH ₃

TABLE 2
(Continued)

Ex. No.	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄
37			H	H
38			H	H
39			H	H
40			C ₆ H ₅	C ₆ H ₅
41			H	H

TABLE 2
(Continued)

Ex. No.	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄
42	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₄ -3-CO ₂ CH ₃	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₄ -3-CO ₂ CH ₄	H	H
43	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₄ -4-C ₂ H ₄ OH	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₄ -4-C ₂ H ₄ OH	H	H
44	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₄ -3-CH ₂ OH	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₄ -3-CH ₂ OH	CH ₃	CH ₃
45	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₁₁	7-SO ₂ NHC ₆ H ₁₁	CH ₂ CH=CH ₂	CH ₂ CH=CH ₂
46	7-CH ₃	7-CH ₃	H	H
47	7-OC ₆ H ₅	7-OC ₆ H ₅	H	H
48	7-OC ₂ H ₄ OH	7-OC ₂ H ₄ OH	H	H

TABLE 2
(Continued)

Ex. No.	R_1	R_2	R_3	R_4
49	7-SC ₂ H ₅	7-SC ₂ H ₅	H	H
50	7-SC ₆ H ₅	7-S-C ₆ H ₅	H	H
51	7-Br	7-Br	CH ₃	CH ₃
52	8-OH	8-OH	H	H
53	8-OCH ₃	8-OCH ₃	H	H
54	8-OCOCH ₃	8-OCOCH ₃	H	H
55	H	H	H	H

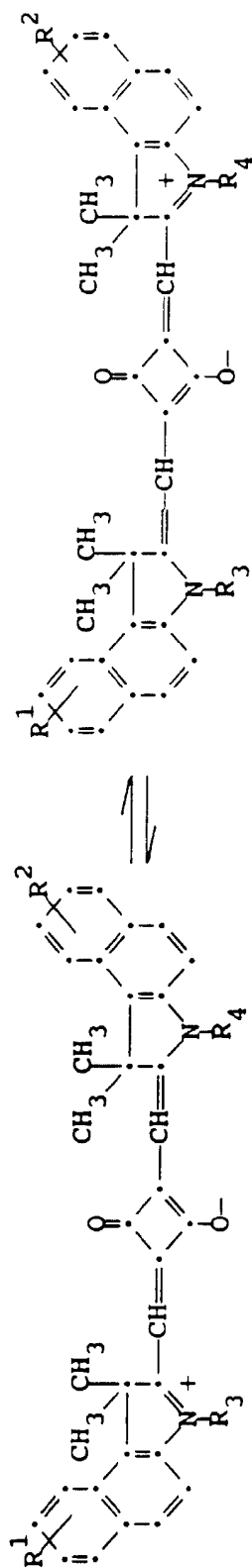


TABLE 2
(Continued)

Ex. NO.	R ₁	R ₂	R ₃	R ₄
56	7-COOH	7-COOH	H	H
57	7-CO ₂ CH ₃	H	H	CH ₃
58	7-CO ₂ CH ₃	7-SO ₂ NHC ₂ H ₄ OH	H	H
59	H	7-SO ₂ N(C ₂ H ₄ OH) ₂	H	H
60	7-CO ₂ CH ₃	7-CO ₂ CH ₃	C ₆ H ₅	CH ₃
61	7-SO ₂ C ₆ H ₅	7-SO ₂ C ₆ H ₅	H	H
62	7-SO ₂ CH ₃	7-SO ₂ CH ₃	H	H

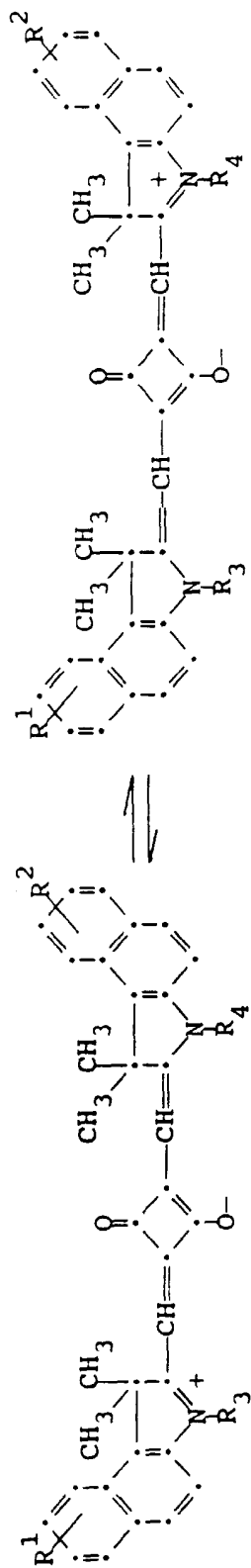


TABLE 2
(Continued)

Ex. No.	R_1	R_2	R_3	R_4
63	$7\text{-SO}_2(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{OH}$	$7\text{-SO}_2(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{OH}$	H	H
64	$7\text{-SO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-3-CO}_2\text{CH}_3$	$7\text{-SO}_2\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{-3-CO}_2\text{CH}_3$	H	H

TABLE 3

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
66	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcAlOH
67	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcAl-OC ₆ H ₄ -4-CO ₂ CH ₃
68	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcAl-SC ₆ H ₄ -2-CO ₂ CH ₃
69	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcAl-S-C ₂ H ₄ OH
70	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcCa
71	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcVO
72	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcInCl
73	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenoxy-PcCrF

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
74	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-PcAlOCOCF ₃
75	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-PcNi
76	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-Sn
77	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-PcSnCl ₂
78	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-PcSn(OCOCH ₃) ₂
79	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-PcSiF ₂
80	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-PcCo
82	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenylthio)-PcAlCl

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
83	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenylthio)-PcAlOCOCF ₃
84	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenylthio)-PcGe
85	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenylthio)-PcGa
86	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcSiCl ₂
87	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcSiOH
88	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcSi(OC ₂ H ₄ OH) ₂
89	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcSi(OC ₄ H _{9-n}) ₂
90	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcZn
91	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-Pc-Mg
92	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcMn

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS

(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
93	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcPt
94	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcPd
95	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcPb
96	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcSi(OCOCH ₃) ₂
97	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-t-butylphenoxy)-PcSiF ₂
98	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-PcAlOH
99	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(2-hydroxyethylthio)-Pc AlOCOCF ₃
100	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(4-carbomethoxyphenoxy)-PcSiCl ₂
101	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(2-carboxyphenylthio)-PcSi(OH) ₂

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
103	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-n-butoxy-PcVO
104	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraallyloxy-PcSn(OCOCF ₃) ₂
105	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetrabenzoyloxy-PcZn
106	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetracyclohexyloxy-PcSi[OC(C ₆ H ₅) ₃] ₂
108	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetrabenzothiazol-2-ylthio-PcAlCl
109	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetrabenzoxazol-2-ylthio-PcAlOCCOCF ₃
111	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-2-pyridylthio-PcSi(OC ₆ H ₅) ₂

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS

(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
112	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraphenylseleno-PcNi
113	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-n-octylthio-PcSi(OC ₆ H ₄ -4-F) ₂
114	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra-(2-naphthylthio)-PcAlOH
116	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetrapiperidino-PcSn(OCOCF ₃) ₂
117	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetratriazol-3-ylthio-PcSiCl ₂
118	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetratriazol-3-ylthio-PcAl-OCOCF ₃
119	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetraanilino-Pc-Cu
120	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra(4-methoxyanilino)-Pc-SnCl ₂

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
121	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra(4-dodecyloxyphenoxy)-PcIn-Cl
123	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra(4-carbomethoxyphenylthio)-Pc-AlOH
124	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octamethoxy-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octachloro-PcSi(OH) ₂
125	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octamethoxy-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octachloro-PcAl-Cl
126	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octamethoxy-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octachloro-PcAlOCOF ₃
127	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octamethoxy-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octachloro-PcVO
128	Hexadecachloro-PcAlOH

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
130	Hexadeca(4-methylphenylthio)-PcSi(OC ₆ F ₅) ₂
131	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octaphenoxy-PcSiF ₂
132	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octaphenylthio-PcSi[O-Si(CH ₃) ₂ C ₆ H ₅] ₂
134	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octa-(4-methylthiophenylthio)PcFe
135	2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octachloro-Pc-Al-OH
136	2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octabromo-Pc-ALOCOF ₃
137	2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octafluoro-Pc-SiCl ₂
138	2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octaphenylthio-PcSi(OC ₆ H ₅) ₂

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
139	2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octa(2-hydroxyethoxy)PcSi[OC ₆ H ₄ -4-COOH] ₂
140	2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octa(2-hydroxyethylthio)PcSi(OCOCF ₃) ₂
142	2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-Octabenzothiazol-2-ylthio-PcAlOH
143	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octa(3-methylbutoxy)-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octaphenylthio-PcAlOH
144	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octa(3-methylbutoxy)-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octaphenoxypcSi(OH) ₂

TABLE 3
(Continued)

PHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Pc = PHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
146	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octafluoro(3-methylbutoxy)-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octa-4(t-butylphenylthio)PcCu
147	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octafluoro-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octaphenylthio-PcAlOC ₆ H ₄ -4-CO ₂ CH ₃
148	1,4,8,11,15,18,22,25-Octafluoro-2,3,9,10,16,17,23,24-octaphenylthio-PcVO
149	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-PcAlOH
150	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-PcAlCl
151	3(4), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-Tetra(1,1-dimethylpropyl)-PcAl-OC ₆ H ₃ -3,5-di-CO ₂ CH ₃

TABLE 4

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(NC = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
153	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcCu
154	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcSi(OH) ₂
155	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcVO
156	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcAlOH
157	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcAlOCOCF ₃
158	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcZn
159	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcSnCl ₂
160	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcCo
161	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcCa
162	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcPd

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
163	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcAlOC ₆ H ₄ -4-COOH
164	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcAlOC ₆ H ₃ -3,5-diCO ₂ CH ₃
165	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcSi(OC ₆ H ₄ -4-CO ₂ CH ₃) ₂
166	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-t-butyl-NcSn(OCOCH ₃) ₂
168	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetramethoxy-NcAlOH
169	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetramethylthio-NcAlOCCOCF ₃
170	NcVO
171	NcInCl
172	NcZn

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
173	$\text{Nc}(\text{SiOCOCF}_3)_2$
174	NcMg
175	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-n-butoxy-NcH ₂
176	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-n-butoxy-NcVO
177	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-n-butoxy-NcSi(OH) ₂
178	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-n-butoxy-NcSi[OSi(C ₆ H ₅) ₃] ₂
179	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-n-butoxy-NcSn[OCOCH ₃] ₂
180	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-n-butoxy-NcZn
181	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-n-butoxy-NcMg
182	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetradodecyloxy-NcSi(OH) ₂

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(NC = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
183	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetrabenzothiazol-2-yl-thio-NcAlOH
184	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetrabenzimidazol-2-ylthio-NcAlOCOCF ₃
185	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetraphenylseleno-NcSnCl ₂
186	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetraphenyltelluro-NcSiCl ₂
187	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetraanilino-NcSi(OH) ₂
188	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-(2-naphthyloxy)-NcCSi(OCOCF ₃) ₂
189	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra-(2-naphthylthio)-NcSi(OCOCH ₃) ₂
190	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetraallyloxy-Nc-Sn(OCOCH ₃) ₂
191	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetrapropargyloxy-Nc-Si(OH) ₂

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
192	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetracyclohexyloxy-Nc-Si(OC ₆ H ₃ -3,5-diCO ₂ CH ₃) ₂
193	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra(2-phenoxyethoxy)-Nc-AlOH
194	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra(2-phenylethoxy)-Nc-VO
195	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra(2-phenyloxy)-Nc-InCl
196	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30) Tetra(2-phenyloxy)-Nc-Cu
197	5,9,14,18,23,27,32,36-Octamethoxy-NcSi(OH) ₂
198	5,9,14,18,23,27,32,36-Octa-n-butoxy-NcSi(OCCOCF ₃) ₂
199	5,9,14,18,23,27,32,36-Octaphenoxy-NcMg
200	5,9,14,18,23,27,32,36-Octaallyloxy-NcAlOC ₆ H ₄ -4-CO ₂ CH ₃

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
201	5, 9, 14, 18, 23, 27, 32, 36-Octaethoxy-NcVO
204	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octabromo-NcZn
205	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octaphenoxy-NcAlOH
206	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octaphenylthio-NcSi(OH) ₂
207	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octabenzothiazol-2-ylthio-NcSi(OCOCF ₃) ₂
208	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octabenzoxazol-2-ylthio-NcVO
209	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octatriazol-3-ylthio-NcCu
210	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octa(4-t-butoxyphenoxy)NcAlOH

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
211	2,3,11,12,20,21,29,30-Octa(4-methoxyphenylthio)NcSi(OH) ₂
212	2,3,11,12,20,21,29,30-Octa(2-ethylhexoxy)-NcSi(OH) ₂
213	2,3,11,12,20,21,29,30-Octa(2-hydroxyethoxy)-NcAlCl
214	2,3,11,12,20,21,29,30-Octa(2-hydroxyethylthio)-NcSi(OH) ₂
216	2,3,11,12,20,21,29,30-Octamethyl-NcAlOH
217	2,3,11,12,20,21,29,30-Octa-p-t-butylphenylthio-Nc-Si(OH) ₂
218	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-Tetra diethylamino-NcAlOH
219	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-Tetra morpholino-NcAlOCOCF ₃
220	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-Tetra-O(C ₂ H ₄ O) ₂ CH ₃ -Nc-Si(OH) ₂

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
221	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-Tetra-O(C ₂ H ₄ O) ₂ CH ₃ -Nc-Si(OH) ₂
222	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(CH ₃) ₃ -Si-CH ₂ S]-Nc-Si[OSi(C ₄ H ₉) ₃] ₂
223	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(C ₂ H ₅) ₃ -Si-(CH ₂) ₂ S]-Nc-Si[OSi(CH ₃) ₃] ₂
224	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(C ₆ H ₁₃) ₃ -Si-CH ₂ S]-Nc-Si[OSi(OCH ₃) ₃] ₂
225	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(CH ₃ O) ₃ Si-(CH ₂) ₃ S]-Nc-Ge[OSi(C ₂ H ₅) ₃] ₂
226	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(C ₆ H ₅ O) ₃ -Si-CH ₂ -S]-Nc-Ge[OSi(OCH ₃) ₃] ₂
227	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(CH ₃) ₃ Si-CH ₂ CH ₂ O]-Nc-Si(OH) ₂
228	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(CH ₃) ₃ SiC(Cl) ₂ CH ₂ S]-Nc-Ge[OSi(CH ₃) ₃] ₂
229	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(C ₆ H ₅) ₃ -SiCH ₂ O]-Nc-Ge(OCOCF ₃) ₂
230	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra [(CH ₃) ₃ -Si-CH ₂ S]-Nc-Sn[OSi(C ₂ H ₅) ₃] ₂

TABLE 4
(Continued)

NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
231	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra $[(CH_3)_3Si-CH_2S]-Nc-Sn[OC_{18}H_{37})_2$
232	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra $[(CH_3)_2C_6H_5Si-(CH_2)_4O]-Nc-ALOH$
233	2,3,11,12,20,21,29,30-octa $[(CH_3)_3Si-CH_2S]-Nc-Si(OH)_2$
234	5(36), 9(14), 18(23), 27(32)-tetra(dodecylamino)-NcAlCl
235	5(36), 9(14), 18(23), 27(32)-tetra(n-octylamino)-NcAlOH
236	2(36), 9(14), 18(23), 27(32)-tetra(n-octylamino)-NcAl- $OC_6H_3-3,5-di-CO_2CH_3$
237	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra(dodecylthio)-NcAlOH
238	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra(n-octylthio)-NcAlCl
239	2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra(dodecylthio)-NcAl- $OC_6H_3-3,5-di-CO_2CH_3$

TABLE 4
(Continued)
NAPHTHALOCYANINE COMPOUNDS
(Nc = NAPHTHALOCYANINE NUCLEUS)

Ex. No.	COMPOUND
240	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octa(dodecylthio)-NcSi(OH) ₂
241	2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octa(dodecylthio)-NcSi(-OC ₆ H ₄ -4-CO ₂ CH ₃) ₂

The following compounds are contemplated as being effective in the present invention:
A compound selected from a list consisting of

2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetraphenoxy-Pc-Al-[O-(3,5-dimethoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl];

2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetraphenoxy-Pc-Si-[O-(3,5-dimethoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl]₂;

5 2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetra-(4-t-butyl-1-phenylthio)-PcAl-[O-(3,5-dimethoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl];

2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetra-(4-t-butyl-1-phenylthio)-PcSi-[O-(4-methoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl]₂;

10 2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetra-(SC₁₂H₂₅)-PcAl-[O-(3,5-dimethoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl];

2(3), 9(10), 16(17), 23(24)-tetra-(SC₁₂H₂₅)-PcSi-[O-(4-methoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl]₂;

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcSi-[O-(4-methoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl]₂;

15 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcSi-[O-(5-carboxynaphth-1-yl)]₂;

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcAl-O-[(3,5-dimethoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl];

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcAl-O-C(4-methoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl];

20 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcAl-O-[(2-carboxy)phen-1-yl];

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcAl-O-[(3-carboxy)phen-1-yl];

25 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(dodecylthio)-NcAl-O-[(4-carboxy)phen-1-yl];

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(dodecylthio)-NcAl-O-[(4-hydroxyethyl)phen-1-yl];

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(dodecylthio)-NcAl-O-[(2-methoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl];

30 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcSi-[O-(2-carboxy)phen-1-yl]₂;

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcSi-[O-(3-carboxy)phen-1-yl]₂;

35 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcSi-[O-(4-carboxy)phen-1-yl]₂;

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcSi-[O-(4-hydroxyethyl)phen-1-yl]₂;

2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-octa(hexadecylthio)-NcSi-[O-(2-methoxycarbonyl)phen-1-yl]₂;

40 5(36), 9(14), 18(23), 27(32)-tetra(n-octylamino)-NcAlOH

2(36), 9(14), 18(23), 27(32)-tetra(n-octylamino)-NcAl-OC₆H₃-3,5-di-CO₂CH₃

45 2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra(dodecylthio)-NcAlOH

2(3), 11(12), 20(21), 29(30)-tetra(dodecylthio)-NcAl-OC₆H₃-3,5-di-CO₂CH₃

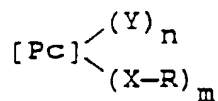
2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octa(dodecylthio)-NcSi(OH)₂

50 2, 3, 11, 12, 20, 21, 29, 30-Octa(dodecylthio)-NcSi(-OC₆H₄-4-CO₂CH₃)₂

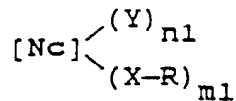
Claims

1. A thermoplastic polymer composition which comprises a thermoplastic polymer having admixed therein one or more monomeric near-infrared fluorescing compounds, provided that said near-infrared fluorescing compounds do not substantially absorb light in the visible spectrum, wherein said compounds are present in a concentration

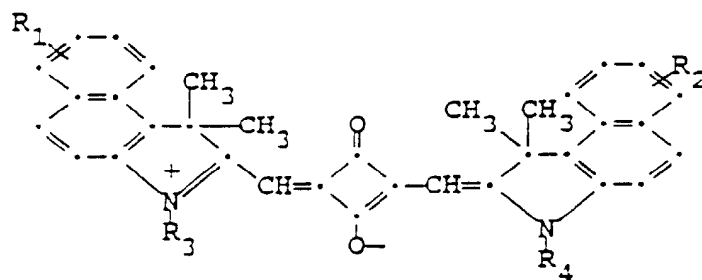
sufficient to impart fluorescence capable of detection by near infrared detection means when exposed to electromagnetic radiation having a wavelength of 670 to 2500 nm and wherein the near infrared fluorescing compound is selected from the classes of phthalocyanines, naphthalocyanines and squaraines and correspond to Formulae II, III and IV:



(II)

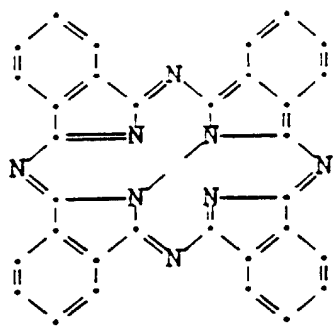


(III)

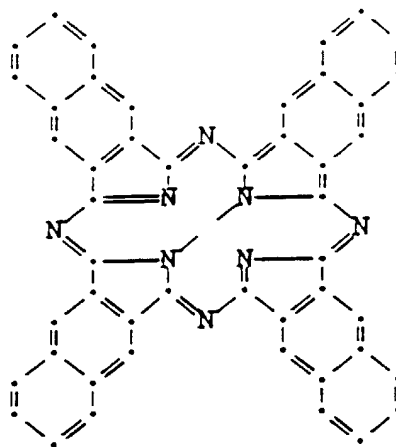


IV

wherein Pc and Nc represent the phthalocyanine and 2,3-naphthalocyanine moieties of Formulae IIa and IIIa,



IIa

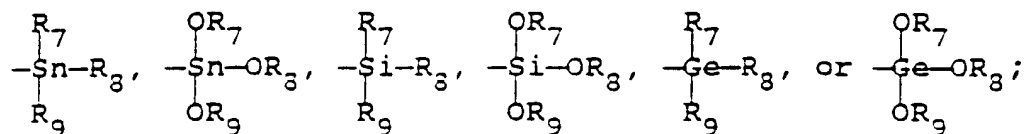


IIIa

respectively, covalently bonded to various metals, halometals, organometallic groups, and oxymetals selected from a list consisting of AlCl, AlBr, AlF, AlOH, AlOR₅, AlSR₅, Ca, Co, CrF, Fe, Ge, Ga, InCl, Mg, Mn, Ni, Pb, Pt, Pd, SiCl₂, SiF₂, SnCl₂, Sn(OR₆)₂, Si(OR₆)₂, Sn(SR₆)₂, Si(SR₆)₂, Sn, TiO, VO or Zn, wherein

R₅ and R₆ are selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, lower alkanoyl, trifluoroacetyl or groups of the

formulae



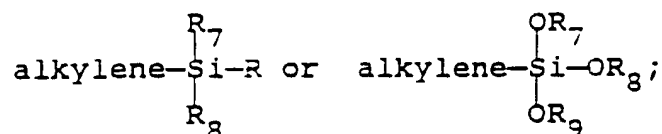
R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are independently selected from alkyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted with lower alkyl, lower alkoxy or halogen;

X is selected from oxygen, sulfur, selenium, tellurium or a group of the formula $-\text{N}-\text{R}_{10}$, wherein R_{10} is hydrogen, cycloalkyl, alkyl, acyl, alkylsulfonyl, or aryl or R_{10} and R taken together form an aliphatic or aromatic ring with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached;

Y is selected from alkyl, halogen or hydrogen;

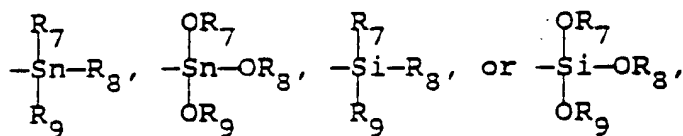
R is selected from unsubstituted or substituted alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl,

C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl,



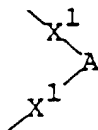
or

$-(\text{X}-\text{R})_m$ is alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, or a group selected from the formulae $-\text{X}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_z\text{R}^1$,



wherein R^1 is hydrogen or R as defined above; Z is an integer of from 1-4;

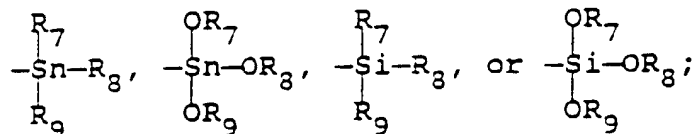
or two $-(\text{X}-\text{R})_m$ groups can be taken together to form divalent substituents of the formula



wherein

each X^1 is independently selected from $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, or $-\text{N}-\text{R}_{10}$ and A is selected from ethylene; propylene; trimethylene; and such groups substituted with C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, aryl and cycloalkyl; 1,2-phenylene and 1,2-phenylene containing 1-3 substituents selected from C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy or halogen;

R₁ and R₂ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, halogen, aryloxy, lower alkylthio, arylthio, lower alkylsulfonyl; arylsulfonyl; lower alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, cycloalkylsulfonylamino, carboxy, unsubstituted and substituted carbamoyl and sulfamoyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, hydroxy or lower alkanoyloxy,



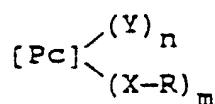
R₃ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, alkenyl or aryl; n is an integer from 0-12; n₁ is an integer from 0-24, m is an integer from 4-16; m₁ is an integer from 0-16; provided that the sums of n+m and n₁+m₁ are 16 and 24, respectively.

2. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is selected from a list consisting of polyesters, polyolefins, polyamides, polyvinyl chlorides, polyvinylidene chlorides, polycarbonates, cellulose esters, polyacrylates, polyimides, polyester-amides, and polystyrenes.
3. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is a polyester.
4. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the polyester is a poly(ethylene) terephthalate.
5. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the near infrared fluorescing compound is a squaraine compound of Formula IV, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently carboxy or lower alkoxy carbonyl.
6. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the near infrared fluorescing compound is a 2,3-naphthalocyanine compound of Formula III, wherein Y is hydrogen, n₁ is 24, and m₁ is 0.
7. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the near infrared fluorescing compound is a 2,3-naphthalocyanine compound of Formula III, wherein the naphthalocyanine moiety is bonded to SiCl₂, Si(OH)₂, or Si(OR₆)₂.
8. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1, wherein the near infrared fluorescing compound is a phthalocyanine compound of Formula II, wherein X is oxygen, R is aryl, Y is hydrogen, m is 4, and n is 12; and wherein the phthalocyanine moiety is bonded to AlCl, AlOH, AlOCOCF₃, AlOR₅, SiCl₂, Si(OH)₂, or Si(OR₆)₂.
9. A thermoplastic polymer composition which comprises a thermoplastic condensation polymer having copolymerized therein at least 0.1 ppm of one or more near infrared fluorescing compounds as defined in any one of claims 1 to 8.
10. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 9, wherein the thermoplastic condensation polymer is poly(ethylene terephthalate).
11. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 9, further comprising one or more thermoplastic polymers blended therein.
12. The thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 11, wherein the thermoplastic polymer(s) blended therein is (are) selected from a list consisting from polyesters, polyolefins, polyamides, polyvinyl chlorides, polyvinylidene chlorides, polycarbonates, cellulose esters, polyacrylates, polyimides, polyester-amides, and polystyrenes.
13. The thermoplastic condensation polymer composition of claim 9 or 10, wherein the polyester is a semicrystalline powder having an average particle size of less than 50 microns.
14. An article comprised of the thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 1.

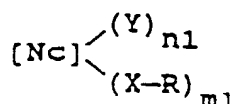
15. An article comprised of the thermoplastic polymer composition of claim 9.

Patentansprüche

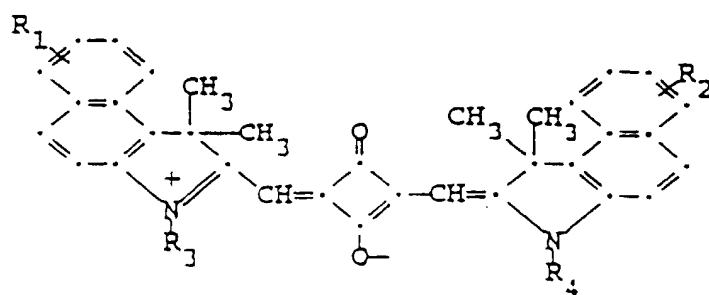
1. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung, welche ein thermoplastisches Polymer, das eine oder mehrere monomere, im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierende Verbindungen darin eingemischt aufweist, umfaßt, mit der Maßgabe, daß die im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierenden Verbindungen im wesentlichen kein Licht im sichtbaren Spektrum absorbieren, wobei die Verbindungen in einer Konzentration vorliegen, die ausreicht, um eine Fluoreszenz zu erhalten, die mittels Nah-Infrarot-Detektionsvorrichtungen nachgewiesen werden kann, wenn sie elektromagnetischer Strahlung einer Wellenlänge von 670 bis 2500 nm ausgesetzt werden, und wobei die im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierende Verbindung aus der Klasse von Phthalocyaninen, Naphthalocyaninen und Squarainen gewählt wird und den folgenden Formeln II, III und IV entspricht:



(II)

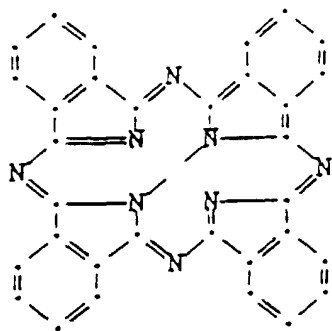


(III)

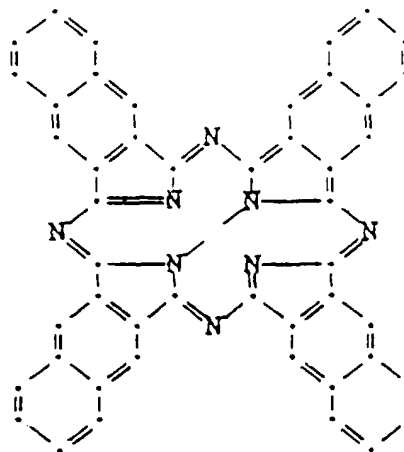


IV

worin Pc und Nc den Phthalocyanin- bzw. 2,3-Naphthalocyanin-Rest der Formeln IIa bzw. IIIa



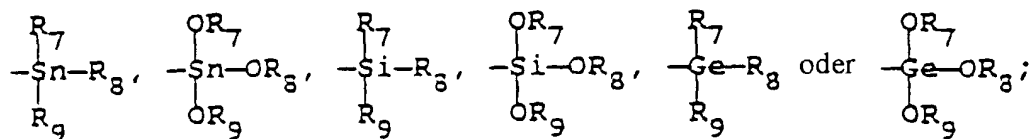
IIa



IIIa

repräsentieren, kovalent gebunden an verschiedenen Metallen, Halogenidmetallen, organometallischen Gruppen und Oxymetallen, gewählt aus der aus AlCl, AlBr, AlF, AlOH, AlOR₅, AlSR₅, Ca, Co, CrF, Fe, Ge, Ga, InCl, Mg, Mn, Ni, Pb, Pt, Pd, SiCl₂, SiF₂, SnCl₂, Sn(OR₆)₂, Si(OR₆)₂, Sn(SR₆)₂, Si(SR₆)₂, Sn, TiO, VO oder Zn bestehenden Liste, worin

R₅ und R₆ gewählt werden aus Wasserstoff, Alkyl, Aryl, Heteroaryl, Niederalkanoyl, Trifluoracetyl oder Gruppen der Formeln



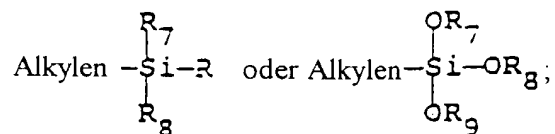
wobei R₇, R₈ und R₉ unabhängig gewählt werden aus Alkyl, Phenyl oder Phenyl, substituiert mit Niederalkyl, Niederalkoxy oder Halogen;

X gewählt wird aus Sauerstoff, Schwefel, Selen, Tellur oder einer Gruppe der Formel -N-R₁₀, worin R₁₀ Wasserstoff, Cycloalkyl, Alkyl, Acyl, Alkylsulfonyl oder Aryl ist, oder R₁₀ und R zusammen einen aliphatischen oder aromatischen Ring mit dem Stickstoffatom, an dem sie gebunden sind, bilden;

Y gewählt wird aus Alkyl, Halogen oder Wasserstoff;

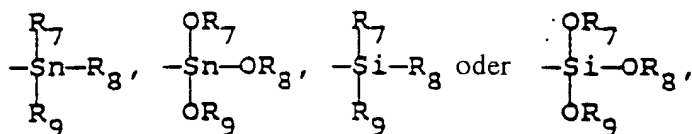
R gewählt wird aus unsubstituiertem oder substituiertem Alkyl, Alkenyl, Alkynyl,

C₃-C₈-Cycloalkyl, Aryl, Heteroaryl,

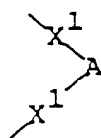


oder

$-(X-R)_m$ Alkylsulfonylamino, Arylsulfonylamino oder eine Gruppe ist, gewählt aus den Formeln $-X(C_2H_4O)_zR^1$

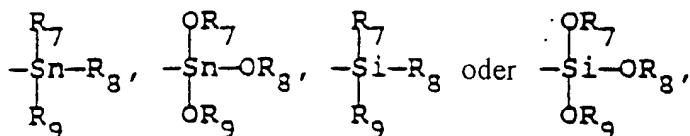


worin R^1 Wasserstoff oder R, wie oben definiert, ist; Z eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 4 ist; oder worin zwei $-(X-R)_m$ -Gruppen zusammengekommen werden können, um zweiwertige Substituenten der Formel



zu bilden, worin jedes X^1 unabhängig gewählt wird aus -O-, -S- oder -N- R_{10} und A gewählt wird aus Ethylen, Propylen, Trimethylen; und solchen Gruppen, welche mit C_1 - C_4 -Alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -Alkoxy, Aryl und Cycloalkyl substituiert sind; 1,2-Phenylen und 1,2-Phenylen, welches mit 1 bis 3 aus C_1 - C_4 -Alkyl, C_1 - C_4 -Alkoxy oder Halogen gewählten Substituenten substituiert ist;

R_1 und R_2 unabhängig gewählt sind aus Wasserstoff, Niederalkyl, Niederalkoxy, Halogen, Aryloxy, Niederalkylthio, Arylthio, Niederalkylsulfonyl; Arylsulfonyl; Niederalkylsulfonylamino, Arylsulfonylamino, Cycloalkylsulfonylamino, Carboxy, unsubstituiertem oder substituiertem Carbamoyl und Sulfamoyl, Niederalkoxycarbonyl, Hydroxy oder Niederalkanoyloxy,



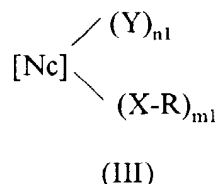
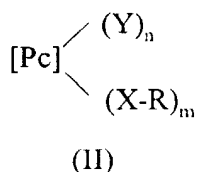
R_3 und R_4 unabhängig gewählt werden aus Wasserstoff, Niederalkyl, Alkenyl oder Aryl, n eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 12 ist; n_1 eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 24 ist, m eine ganze Zahl von 4 bis 16 ist; m_1 eine ganze Zahl von 0 bis 16 ist; mit der Maßgabe, daß die Summe von $n+m$ und n_1+m_1 16 bzw. 24 ist.

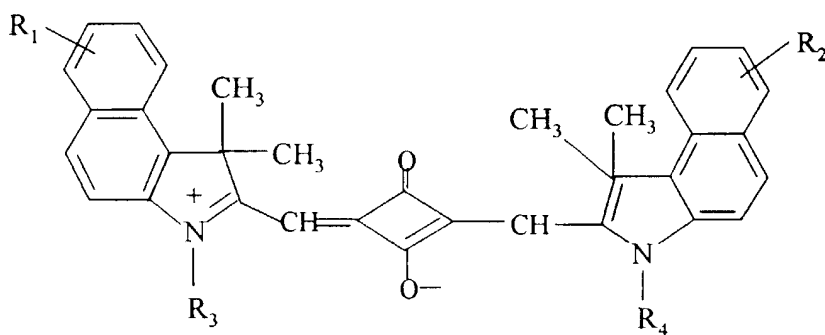
2. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei das thermoplastische Polymer gewählt wird aus der aus Polyestern, Polyolefinen, Polyamiden, Polyvinylchloriden, Polyvinylidenchloriden, Polycarbonaten, Celluloseestern, Polyacrylaten, Polyimiden, Polyesteramiden und Polystyrolen bestehenden Liste.
3. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei das thermoplastische Polymer ein Polyester ist.
4. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, 2 oder 3, wobei der Polyester ein Poly(ethylen) terephthalat ist.
5. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierende Verbindung eine Squarainverbindung der Formel IV ist, worin R_1 und R_2 unabhängig Carboxy oder Niederalkoxycarbonyl sind.

6. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierende Verbindung eine 2,3-Naphthalocyaninverbindung der Formel III ist, worin Y Wasserstoff ist, n_1 24 ist und m_1 0 ist.
7. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierende Verbindung eine 2,3-Naphthalocyaninverbindung der Formel III ist, worin der Naphthalocyanin-Rest an SiCl_2 , $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_2$ oder $\text{Si}(\text{OR}_6)_2$ gebunden ist.
8. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 1, wobei die im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierende Verbindung eine Phthalocyaninverbindung der Formel II ist, worin X Sauerstoff ist, R Aryl ist, Y Wasserstoff ist, m 4 ist und n 12 ist; und worin der Phthalocyanin-Rest an AlCl , AlOH , AlOCOCF_3 , AlOR_5 , SiCl_2 , $\text{Si}(\text{OH})_2$ oder $\text{Si}(\text{OR}_6)_2$ gebunden ist.
9. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung, welche ein thermoplastisches Kondensationspolymer umfaßt, das darin copolymerisiert mindestens 0,1 ppm einer oder mehrerer im Nah-Infrarot-Bereich fluoreszierender Verbindungen, wie in mindestens einem der Ansprüche 1 bis 8 definiert, aufweist.
10. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 9, worin das thermoplastische Kondensationspolymer Poly(ethylenterephthalat) ist.
11. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 9, ferner umfassend ein oder mehrere darin eingemischte thermoplastische Polymere.
12. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 11, wobei das darin eingemischte thermoplastische Polymer bzw. die Polymeren gewählt wird/werden aus der aus Polyestern, Polyolefinen, Polyamiden, Polyvinylchloriden, Polyvinylidenchloriden, Polycarbonaten, Celluloseestern, Polyacrylaten, Polyimiden, Polyesteramiden und Polystyrolen bestehenden Liste.
13. Thermoplastische Polymerzusammensetzung nach Anspruch 9 oder 10, wobei der Polyester ein halbkristallines Pulver mit einer mittleren Teilchengröße von weniger als $50\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ ist.
14. Gegenstand, bestehend aus der thermoplastischen Polymerzusammensetzung gemäß Anspruch 1.
15. Gegenstand, bestehend aus der thermoplastischen Polymerzusammensetzung gemäß Anspruch 9.

Revendications

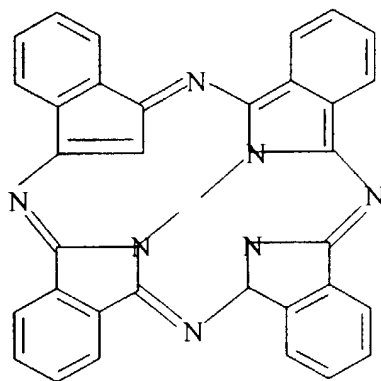
1. Composition de polymère thermoplastique qui comprend un polymère thermoplastique dans lequel sont mélangés un ou plusieurs composés monomères fluorescents dans le proche infrarouge, à condition que lesdits composés fluorescents dans le proche infrarouge n'absorbent pas sensiblement la lumière dans le spectre visible, où lesdits composés sont présents à une concentration suffisante pour conférer une fluorescence capable d'être détectée par un moyen de détection du proche infrarouge quand on l'expose à une radiation électromagnétique ayant une longueur d'onde de 670-2500 nm et où le composé fluorescent dans le proche infrarouge est choisi dans les classes des phtalocyanines, naphthalocyanines et squaraines qui correspondent aux formules II, III et IV :



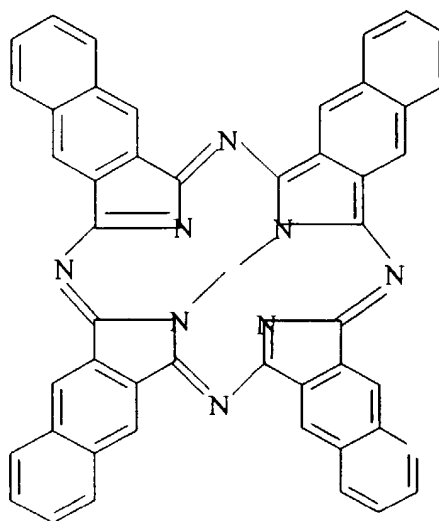


(IV)

où Pc et Nc représentent les fractions phthalocyanine et 2,3-naphtalocyanine de formules IIa et IIIa,



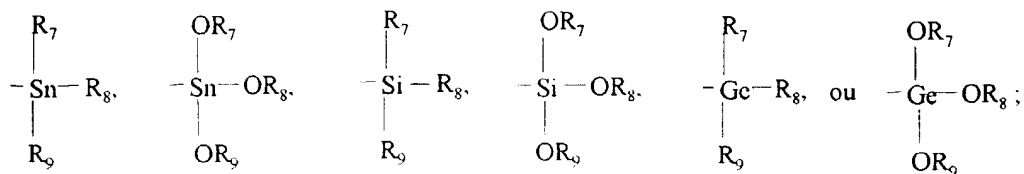
IIa



IIIa

respectivement, liées de manière covalente à différents métaux, métaux halogénés, groupes organométalliques, et oxymétaux choisis parmi une liste constituée de AlCl, AlBr, AlF, AlOH, AlOR₅, AlSR₅, Ca, Co, CrF, Fe, Ge, Ga, InCl, Mg, Mn, Ni, Pb, Pt, Pd, SiCl₂, SiF₂, SnCl₂, Sn(OR₆)₂, Si(OR₆)₂, Sn(SR₆)₂, Si(SR₆)₂, Sn, TiO, VO ou Zn, où

R₅ et R₆ sont choisis parmi les hydrogène, alkyle, aryle, hétéroaryle, alcanoyle inférieur, trifluoroacétyl ou des groupes de formules

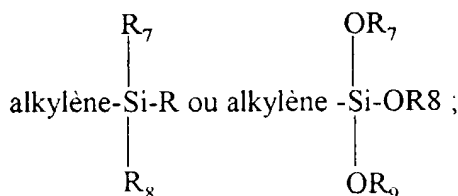


R₇, R₈ et R₉ sont choisis indépendamment parmi les alkyle, phényle ou phényle substitué par un alkyle inférieur, alcoxy inférieur ou halogène ;

X est choisi parmi les oxygène, soufre, sélénium, tellure ou un groupe de formule -N-R₁₀, où R₁₀ est un hydrogène, cycloalkyle, alkyle, acyle, alkylsulfonyl, ou aryle ou R₁₀ et R pris ensemble forment un cycle aliphatique ou aromatique avec l'atome d'azote auquel ils sont fixés ;

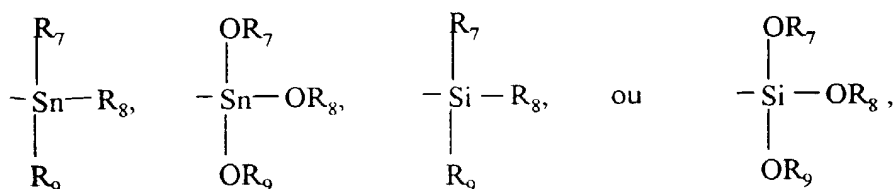
Y est choisi parmi un alkyle, halogène ou hydrogène ;

R est choisi parmi un alkyle substitué ou non substitué, alcényle, alcynyle, cycloalkyle en C₃-C₈, aryle, hétéroaryle,



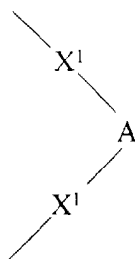
ou

-(X-R)_m est alkylsulfonylamino, arylsulfonylamino, ou un groupe choisi parmi les formules -X(C₂H₄O)_ZR¹,



où R¹ est un hydrogène ou R tel que défini ci-dessus ; Z est un nombre entier de 1 à 4 ;

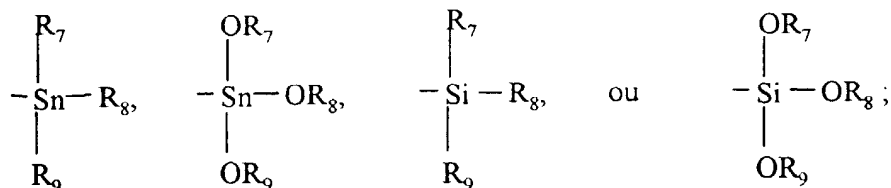
ou deux groupes -(X-R)_m peuvent être pris ensemble pour former des substituants divalents de formule



où

chaque X¹ est choisi indépendamment parmi -O-, -S- ou -N-R₁₀ et A est choisi parmi l'éthylène, le propylène, le triméthylène ; et de tels groupes substitués par les alkyle en C₁-C₄, alcoxy en C₁-C₄, aryle et cycloalkyle ; 1,2-phénylène et 1,2-phénylène contenant 1-3 substituants choisis parmi les alkyle en C₁-C₄, alcoxy en C₁-C₄ ou halogène ;

R₁ et R₂ sont choisis indépendamment parmi les hydrogène, alkyle inférieur, alcoxy inférieur, halogène, aryloxy, alkylthio inférieur, arylthio, arylsulfonyl inférieur ; arylsulfonyl ; alkylsulfonylamino inférieur, arylsulfonylamino, cycloalkylsulfonylamino, carboxy, carbamoyl substitué et non substitué et sulfamoyl, alcoxy-carbonyl inférieur, hydroxy ou alcanoyloxy inférieur,



R_3 et R_4 sont choisis indépendamment parmi les hydrogène, alkyle inférieur, alcényle ou aryle ; n est un entier de 0 à 12 ; n_1 est un entier de 0 à 24, m est un entier de 4 à 16 ; m_1 est un entier de 0 à 16 ; à condition que les sommes de $n+m$ et n_1+m_1 soient 16 et 24, respectivement.

2. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1, où le polymère thermoplastique est sélectionné dans une liste constituée par les polyesters, polyoléfines, polyamides, poly(chlorures de vinyle), poly(chlorures) de vinylidène, polycarbonates, esters de cellulose, polyacrylates, polyimides, polyester-amides et polystyrènes.
3. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1 ou 2, où le polymère thermoplastique est un polyester.
4. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1, 2 ou 3, où le polyester est un poly(éthylène-téréphtalate).
5. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1, où le composé fluorescent dans le proche infrarouge est un composé squaraine de formule IV, où R_1 et R_2 sont indépendamment un carboxy ou un alcoxy-carbonyle inférieur.
6. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1, où le composé fluorescent dans le proche infrarouge est un composé de 2,3-naphtalocyanine de formule III, où Y est un hydrogène, n_1 est 24 et m_1 est 0.
7. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1, où le composé fluorescent dans le proche infrarouge est un composé de 2,3-naphtalocyanine de formule III, où la fraction de naphtalocyanine est liée à $SiCl_2$, $Si(OH)_2$ ou $Si(OR_6)_2$.
8. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1, où le composé fluorescent dans le proche infrarouge est un composé de phtalocyanine de formule II, où X est un oxygène, R est un aryle, Y est un hydrogène, m est 4 et n est 12 ; et où la fraction phtalocyanine est liée à $AlCl$, $AlOH$, $AlOCOCF_3$, $AlOR_5$, $SiCl_2$, $Si(OH)_2$ ou $Si(OR_6)_2$.
9. Composition de polymère thermoplastique qui comprend un polymère de condensation thermoplastique dans lequel sont copolymérisés au moins 0,1 ppm d'un ou plusieurs composés fluorescents dans le proche infrarouge tels que définis selon l'une quelconque des revendications 1 à 8.
10. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 9, où le polymère de condensation thermoplastique est du poly(éthylène-téréphtalate).
11. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 9, comprenant en outre un ou plusieurs polymères thermoplastiques mélangés.
12. Composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 11, où le ou les polymères thermoplastiques qui sont mélangés sont sélectionnés dans une liste constituée par les polyesters, polyoléfines, polyamides, poly(chlorures de vinyle), poly(chlorures de vinylidène), polycarbonates, esters de cellulose, polyacrylates, polyimides, polyester-amides et polystyrènes.
13. Composition de polymère de condensation thermoplastique selon la revendication 9 ou 10, où le polyester est une poudre semi-cristalline ayant une dimension moyenne de particules inférieure à 50 μm .

14. Article comprenant la composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 1.

15. Article comprenant la composition de polymère thermoplastique selon la revendication 9.

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